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Japan lifts freeze on P4B in grants, loans

■ SPORTS/A23
Mavs pull ahead of Suns with Game 3 victory

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GMA puts Boracay under administrative control of PTA

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Tuesday, May 30, 2006 ★★ Vol. 21 / No. 171 website: www.inq7.net

Soldier-athletes tapped to guard Magdalo men

By Nikko Dizon

THE MAGBALO SOLDIERS will have to karate-chop their way, shoot hoops, or kneel if the Beshbros try to escape their security escorts who happen to be sitting-pool soldier-athletes.

SOLDIER, A4

RP doctors bring 12 tons of supplies to Indonesia

THE PHILIPPINES LAST NIGHT SENT A 20-member medical contingent with 12 tons of supplies and medicine to Indonesia where a deadly earthquake on Saturday left more than 6,100 dead and 200,000 others homeless.

Emergency aid has begun pouring into areas devastated by the 6.3-magnitude earthquake in Indonesia, but officials said supplies were not being delivered fast enough to victims who begged

RP DOCTORS, A4

60 Metro schools, hospitals, buildings vulnerable to big quake

By Lala B. Salaverria

THE PHILIPPINE ORTHOPEDIC Center, Philippeta Arena (formerly Ultra) and the Belmont Hills Elementary School are among the 60 buildings in danger of sustaining "life-threatening" damage should a major earthquake hit Metro Manila, according to the Task Force on Building Inspection of the Department of Public Works and Highways.

The task force also identified the Ilocos Interchange in Parañaque City as among the six bridges in Metro Manila that were recommended for strengthening to increase their chances of withstanding an earthquake.

It released the list of the buildings, mostly public elementary and high schools, to the media two days after a 6.3-magnitude quake in neighboring Indonesia claimed about 5,100 lives.

To minimize the loss of lives and property in the country, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday ordered civil defense officials to conduct earthquake preparedness drills in schools, business districts and public places.

"Let us not be alarmed, but by all means let every vulnerable community be prepared to meet any contingencies whether brought forth by earthquakes, landslides, floods and other natural calamities," the President said.

The Philippines, just like Indonesia, sits on what is commonly referred to as the Pacific "Ring of Fire," a zone of frequent earthquakes and volcanic eruptions that encircles the Pacific Ocean basin.

About five quakes hit the Philippines every day, but few, if any, are felt.

A 4.0-magnitude undersea earthquake hit the Visayas early yesterday, a day after two mild quakes shook parts of the Philippines. Authorities said no damage was suspected and the tremblors were not related to Indonesia's killer quake.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology or Phivolcs, said the predawn quake's epicenter was 690 km southeast of Manila, off Bohol island.

On Sunday afternoon, a 5.3-magnitude quake struck off the country's northernmost Batanes island group. Hours later, a 3.3-magnitude quake rattled Gaspan de Oro City and nearby ar-

60 METRO, A4

Ex-Red peace adviser killed

LEFTIST leaders Nathaniel Santiago (left) and party-list Representatives Joel Virador, Liza Maza, Teodoro Casiño (partly hidden) and Rafael Mariano attend a Makati court hearing on the rebellion case against them with their lawyer Romulo Capulong. (Story on Page A3.)

RP DIVISION

Llamas 8th leftist leader shot dead this month

By Job B. Baico
With reports from Lauren Sharma

TABACO CITY—A rebel who became a peace adviser met a violent end yesterday.

Sotero Llamas, a former New People's Army leader in Bicol and a consultant to communist rebels negotiating a peace settlement with the government, was shot dead Monday morning while riding in a van here.

His driver was wounded. The assassins escaped.

As in the previous murders of militants, Llamas, known as "Ka Teroy," was shot by two men on a motorcycle.

Colleagues said Llamas's killing reflected how dangerous the times had become even for those who had tried to leave the revolutionary path. (See related story at left.)

LLAMAS, A4

DEAD ON ARRIVAL: The body of Sotero "Ka Teroy" Llamas at the Dr Amando Cope Memorial Hospital in Tabaco City in Albay

2 Abu tipsters share ₱26-million US prize

TWO FILIPINO INFORMANTS will share a $500,000-reward (about P26 million) from the US government for a tip that led to the arrest of a terror suspect in Mindanao last year, the US Embassy said yesterday.

Hilarion del Rosario Santos III, the alleged head of the Rajah Sulaiman Movement, a group of Christian converts to Islam that has been closely associated with al-Qaida-linked militants, was arrested in Zamboanga City in October last year together with six other suspects.

His group is believed to have links to the Indonesian-based Jemaah Islamiyah and the bandit group Abu Sayyaf, which operates in Mindanao.

The Abu Sayyaf was behind the bombing of a ferry in Manila on Feb. 27, 2004 that killed 116 people and the simultaneous bombings in Makati, General Santos and Davao cities on Feb. 14, 2005, that left seven dead and 150 wounded.

Jemaah Islamiyah, a group seeking to create an Islamic state in Southeast Asia, was behind the explosion on Aug. 1, 2000, at the Jakarta residence of the Philippine ambassador to Indonesia and the Rizal Day bombings in Metro Manila, also in 2000.

Santos also was connected to plots to attack the US Embassy in Manila and American citizens, the embassy said.

It said the money, to be pre-

2 ABU, A4

No more safe haven, says Left

By Michael Lim Ubac

"IS THE GOVERNMENT OUT TO kill us?"

This was the question posed by Rep. Satur Ocampo, leader of the militant Bayan Muna party-list group, when he heard the news that ex-communist rebel leader Sotero Llamas had been gunned down in Bicol.

Colleagues of Llamas said his murder showed there was no safe haven even for those who had abandoned the armed struggle.

"The government and the military are really willing to jail and silence us, including even the politically inactive Llamas ... They had the strongest motive to silence and kill Llamas," Bayan Muna secretary general Nathaniel Santiago said.

Santiago said Llamas had been inactive in Bayan Muna and the legal Left since 2003. He blamed the killing on the Arroyo administration.

Ocampo, Santiago and Llamas were among some 50 people the Department of Justice had charged with rebellion in connection with an alleged Left-Right conspiracy to grab power in February.

NO MORE, A4

SALVAGE MISSION

Laid-off workers of Atlas Consolidated Mining and Development Corp. retrieve materials from inside the crumbling structures at the company's Carmese copper mining site on the outskirts of Toledo City in Cebu. They sell the scrap to earn a living and feed their families.

AFP

Army kickboxers go after village thugs

By Christian V. Esguerra

NOT LONG AGO, IN A REMOTE barrio in Mindanao, four of the military's toughest "jungle fighters" were handpicked for a special mission—to "neutralize" a small band of rogue men terrorizing the community.

In about a week, all seven targets mysteriously fell, one after the other. Each had a severe neck, rib or spinal injury. All survived but none of them dared pick on the local folk again.

The mission cover for the headlines—which was what the soldiers wanted. But it was a resounding success for the team that had quietly trained in an increasingly popular, albeit brutal, sport—muay thai.

This traditional fighting art from Thailand, also known as Thai kickboxing, has been steadily replacing karate and judo, the erstwhile close-combat method of choice, in the Philippine military's elite forces.

Many find it referred to as "the science of eight limbs," as the hands, feet, elbows and knees are all used extensively to inflict maximum damage to an opponent. A master practitioner of muay thai has the ability to execute strikes using eight "points of contact," as opposed to "two points" (fists) in boxing and "four points" (fists, feet) used in the other forms of martial arts.

From 2003 to 2004, selected troops from the Army's 2nd Infantry Division based in Tanay, Rizal, went through supervised two-month courses under muay thai expert Zhie Vallejos.

The military leadership had got-

ARMY, A4

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Partly cloudy. Prone, and Batanes will experience mostly cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers. The rest of the country will be mostly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers. No risk of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy.

Second FRONTPAGE

Metro Manila ... Cloudy with rain ... Sports ... Cloudy with rain
Nation ... Cloudy with rain ... Business ... Cloudy with rain
Luzon ... Cloudy with rain ... Opinion ... Cloudy with rain
Visayas ... Cloudy with rain ... Lifestyle ... Cloudy with rain
Mindanao ... Cloudy with rain ... Entertainment ... Cloudy with rain
Overseas ... Cloudy with rain ... Classified ... Cloudy with rain

Barbs fly between lawyers in Batasan 5 hearing

By Jocelyn R. Uy

TENSION FLARED AND VOICES WERE raised because opposing counsel in a Makati court yesterday as the lawyer for three junior Air Force officers charged with rebellion accused the prosecution of falsifying his clients as communists and "falsely implicating" them in an alleged antigovernment plot.

Defense lawyer Romeo Capulong also accused the prosecution of maligning him by having him identified in the indictment against the so-called Batasan Five and 41 other people as a member of the communist-led National Democratic Front.

"It is a serious violation of my rights and of those who serve unjustly and maliciously included in the information," Capulong told Judge Benjamin Antig.

"In the court aware that the labeling of militant progressive groups parasite killing in this century?" Capulong added, referring to the string of largely unsolved killings of leftist militants and other people associated with the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army.

Getting off Capulong's tirade, Senior State Prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco asked the defense attorney to show a "little ethics."

"You are overdosed," Capulong shot back. "I will charge all of you for disbarment and perjury. This is going over-line."

The hearing was originally scheduled to enable separate motions filed by the defense and the prosecution prior to the case going on trial.

Capulong, whose clients include Representatives Satur Ocampo, Teodoro Casiño and Joel Virador of Bayan Muna, Rafael Mariano of Anakpawis and Liza Maza of Gabriela, told reporters afterwards that he would file charges of perjury, "discriminatory machinations" and libel against Velasco and other prosecutors.

He said they had certified to having personally examined the complainants and their witnesses, but Judge Jenny Lind Aldecoa-Delorino, who had initially handled the case before subsiding herself, had ruled that the certification was false.

But Velasco shrugged off the accusations, telling reporters that Capulong was shifting out propaganda.

Overhearing Velasco's remarks, Capulong hollered: "Sin sila. Anong mag pa propaganda? Tsss'o crazy. What propaganda?"

Meanwhile, Maximond Castillo described the charge sheet as "virtually a death list" put together by the administration to silence dissenters.

They said they feared that yesterday's killing of Soreen Llanosa, a former Bayan official, and the disappearance of Philip Limjoco in Pampanga last week, means that they had already been judged by the government's "death squad" (See story on Page A11)

Sto. Tomas set to quit, cites stress, workload

By Jocelyn Anog

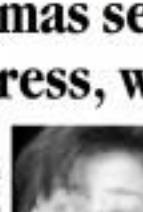
LABOR SECRETARY PATRICIA Sto. Tomas confirmed yesterday that she had offered to resign, saying she wanted to work in a less stressful environment and devote more time to her personal well-being.

"I would want to continue working in government but I do see want to work full time," Sto. Tomas told reporters.

The secretary, one of the Cabinet's longest serving members, said she wanted to "de-stress" herself by writing a book or two, possibly teach, spend more time with her daughter and grandchildren and engage in activities that would improve her health.

"I need some time to rest," she said, adding that she wanted to be able to wake up early, sleep late, see Antonio phone calls and even take "private" lessons, a form of stretching exercises.

She said in another interview that while she had yet to submit a resignation, the President agreed that she needed a break.



STO. TOMAS

Asked what she would miss after leaving the department, she said it would be "the work that is too much" and "working late."

The things that gave her much work and stress included the issue on wage increases, strikes, enforcement of labor laws, and overseas Filipino workers who die, are taken hostage or accused of crimes.

Sto. Tomas said she submitted a memorandum to the President only this month asking permission to leave the department. She said, however, that she did not rule out staying a little longer if the President asked her to do so for as long as her health permitted.

She said she submitted a list of 10 people, including her four undersecretaries, from which the President could choose a successor.

Apart from Undersecretaries Manuel Imson, Danilo Cruz, Carmen Padilla and Romeo Lagman, Sto. Tomas said she also endorsed Marisito Nepis, chief of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration; Arthur Yap, chief of the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission; Ambrosio Madronio, head of Bases Conversion Development Authority; Zenaida Ducut, chief of the Civil Service Commission; and Rowena Guanzon, chief of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation.

Asked about reports that she would be appointed chair of the Philippine National Bank or the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation, she replied, "It has not been offered to me and I have not asked for it but it would be a welcome thing if it happened; if that's true, how nice."

She said she also did not want an ambassadorial post because "I do not want to be an OFW."

It has been reported that Sto. Tomas was being eyed as president of the Government Service Insurance System or that she might seek a position in the International Labor Organization or the United Nations Child Commission on Migration. With reports from GIO. Cabucungan Jr.

No 'edifice complex' – Bunye

By GIO. Cabucungan Jr.

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO YESTERday unveiled another high-profile infrastructure project named after her late father but Malacañang was quick to deny it was succumbing to the "edifice complex" that was a hallmark of the Marcos administration.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye vowed her opposition that the proposed "Macapagal" on the project anywhere in the future of the President.

"I don't think so," he said. "I believe what is important is that we have such an important project. The fact that it is named after a particular person is incidental."

President Arroyo led the groundbreaking ceremonies at the "world-class" Diosdado Macapagal cruise terminal in Oroquieta, Bataan, making it the fifth major facility named after either of her parents.

Projects that recall Mrs Arroyo's late parents since she took office in 2001 are the controversial Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard at the Manila Bay reclaimed area; the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport (which used to be the airport facility of Clark Air Base Base, now the Clark Special Economic Zone); the Evelio Javier Port Terminal located at the Manila Port Area adjacent to the Manila Hotel; and the Iloilo Macapagal-Arroyo Airport in Nueva Ecija province.

Critics claim these projects glorifying the strong President's heritage are reminiscent of the predilections of former President Marcos and First Lady Imelda Marcos to name government-funded structures after themselves and their relatives during their reign. Such building-construction boom was dubbed as the Marcos edifice complex.

Bunye denied President Arroyo has an ego-tripping bug her name in similar fashion. "I don't think that this is the direction of the President. I would rather think that this is the decision or opinion of the project proponents."

The President herself in a statement said she was thankful to the people of Bataan for naming the passenger terminal after her father. And at the ceremonies, Bataan Rep. Albert Garcia called Mrs Arroyo's father "a great Filipino."

Bunye said he had no clue why the Delfin line went being named after the President's father and mother. "This was the decision of the project proponents and those who implemented them," said Bunye.

He also dismissed as without basis the notion that proponents of the Bataan project were hoping to get some kind of accommodation from the President in return for the gesture. "It's just a terminal, it's an important facility," Bunye said.

GMA: Saudis to put up jatropha plant

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO yesterday said that Saudi Aramco had agreed to put up a jatropha processing plant in Mindanao that should boost government efforts to promote the lowly shrub as an alternative fuel source.

The Palace described jatropha as a "drought resistant perennial shrub" that can be refined further into diesel or burned in cooking stoves."

In a visit to Orion, Bataan, the President disclosed that during her recent state visit to Saudi Arabia, "Saudi Aramco agreed to put up an ethanol distillery and jatropha processing plant so that Mindanao would not lag behind in development."

"I agree that it's a good strategy to have the oil refinery plant in Bataan rather than in Mindanao because an ethanol distillery and jatropha plant would generate more jobs that Mindanao needs," the President said.

The President said Saudi Aramco could get its supply of jatropha from North Luzon where idle military camps have been converted into jatropha plantations.

The President made the pitch for a jatropha processing plant as she pressed Congress anew for the passage of the proposed Bio fuel Act that seeks to spur the use of alternative fuels. Only about 3.2 million registered motor vehicle owners in the other timebound so what alcohol to save on fuel import costs. GIO. Cabucungan Jr.

STI also gave recognition to graduates of Diploma Courses for the school year 2005-2006 led by Joel U. Agustin (STI College-EDSA-Cubao), who graduated with High Honors with a Diploma in E-Commerce Programming.

STI also gave special recognitions to STI Student of the Year awardees Seymour R. Lacuna (Area and National Level Winner-TEARS from STI College-Balagtas), Johnny U. Cab (Area and National Level Winner-CHED from STI College-Quezon Ave.), Rothchild A. De Luna (Area Level Winner, Southern Luzon from STI College-Sta.Cruz), and Yuen Ryan C. Lee (Area Level Winner, Mindanao Area from STI College-Davao).

STI graduates posing at the start commencement exercises

STI takes pride in all of its graduates who are products of its Excellence-in-Employment System (EIS System), a complete human resource development approach to education.

There are 9,018 STI students who graduated last school year across the country. STI has one of the largest school networks with more than 300 campuses nationwide.

PHILIPPINE RETIREMENT AUTHORITY

PRA Circular No. ___-03
12 May 2006
Series of 2006

SUBJECT: **POLICY CHANGES RELATIVE TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SPECIAL RESIDUE DEPOSIT**

In order to liberalize the requirements of the Authority's program and to make it more competitive with the programs of other countries and attractive to prospective foreign retirees, the following changes pursuant to Resolution No. 24, Series of 2006, of the Board of Trustees, to the rules and regulations of the Philippine Retirement Authority for retiree investment in its program are hereby adopted, effective 20 May 2006:

1. **Special Retirement Deposit** – The principal investment who are applying for Special Resident Retiree Visa, the minimum qualifying deposit is reduced as follows:

AGE	FROM	TO
35-49 years old	US$75,000.00	US$50,000.00
50 years and above	US$50,000.00	US$20,000.00

2. **Holding Period** – Retirees enrolled under this Program may be allowed to withdraw their deposit for investment in real estate or investment after a holding period of thirty (30) days from the date of the issuance of ARRI Visa.

3. **Withdrawal Fee** – For early conversion of the retirees deposit into an investment, the concerned retiree will pay the withdrawal fee as follows:

Deposit/s	Annual Withdrawal Fee
US$20,000.00	US$500.00 or the peso equivalent
US$50,000.00	US$750.00 or the peso equivalent

4. **Areas of Investment** – The areas of investments for visa holders under this Special Resident Deposit Scheme shall be strictly limited to the following:

a) Purchase, acquisition and ownership of a condominium unit;
b) Long-term lease of house and lot, condominium or townhouse which should not be for a period shorter than (50) years;
c) Purchase, acquisition and ownership of golf or country club shares; or
d) Investment in shares of stocks of corporations duly registered in the Philippine Stock Exchange.

All applications for conversion of deposit shall be submitted to the Board of Trustees for its approval.

5. **Applicability of the Program** – The program is an supplemental program for (a) (b) months and shall apply ONLY to new applicants. Previous ARRI holders CANNOT re-apply for ARRI under this Program.

The Office-in-Charge, Resident Retiree Servicing Center, shall be responsible for the dissemination of this Circular.

(SGD.) **HELEN P. COLLANTES**
Senior Manager

Only 1 of 4 pass CPA exams

By Philip C. Tubeza

THREE OUT OF FOUR ACCOUNTANCY graduates are flunking the eligibility tests to become certified public accountants (CPAs), and their passing grades are getting worse, a lawmaker revealed yesterday.

Caseñas-Sarmiento Rep. Joseph Santiago said that if left unchecked, the declining quality of education in accountancy schools could handicap the country's ability to reap the growing global market for outsourced financial and accounting services, which is expected to reach $250 billion in 2009.

"Both the government and the private sector should collaborate and quickly find ways to reinforce the quality of accounting instruction in the country. Otherwise, we risk losing huge opportunities to expand our share of the lucrative market for outsourced (financial and accounting) services," Santiago said in a statement.

Of the 3,318 accounting graduates that took the licensure examinations for CPAs earlier this month, only 1,103, or 33.3 percent made the grade, according to the Professional Regulations Commission.

That was even worse than the results of the CPA licensure tests in October last year, when only 1,675 or 25.1 percent of the 6,651 candidates passed, Santiago said.

"Don't get us wrong. We have a number of excellent accounting schools that produce outstanding graduates. But, overall, many schools over the years have apparently neglected the need to continuously upgrade the quality of their instruction, thus the deterioration," he said.

He noted that in the United States, the research departments of large stock brokerage firms and investment banks are outsourcing auxiliary activities to offshore business process outsourcing providers that specialize in financial and accounting services.

Pinay maid gets 10 yrs

SINGAPORE—A Filipino maid was sentenced to 10 years in prison Monday for the killing of a fellow domestic worker whose dismembered body was found in an upstairs Singapore shopping district.

Eden Agcilis, 38, who was convicted early this month of killing her friend, Jane Le Pardo, in a dispute over money, kept her composure when the sentence was handed down.

She escaped the death penalty after the charge was reduced to culpable homicide — not amounting to murder because of her mental state when she committed the crime.

Agcilis will serve her sentence immediately with the jail term to commence from the date of her arrest last year, said Singapore's High Court Judge Yeh Yee Job.

Agcilis was arrested hours after the severed head and limbs of Le Pardo were found in a bag near a subway station in the Orchard Road area in August last year.

Court records showed the two had an argument in Agcilis's room at her employers' flat over $2,000 (US$1,274) she had loaned the victim, part of which had been borrowed from a loan shark.

The fight escalated during which Agcilis covered Le Pardo's face with a pillow until the victim suffocated. She then strangled the 27-year-old and placed her body in the bag, AFP

women talk:

Cellulite

Not all dimples are worth smiling about.

Nothing is more irritating than having misplaced dimples on your buttocks. So ugly to look at, this orange-peel-like flaw on your skin makes you feel awkward whenever you're wearing shorts, mini-skirts and swimsuits. We call these lumps and bumps cellulite and, yes, it is hereditary. To date, nearly 90 percent of women are trapped with this dilemma – young or old, slim or fat. Unfortunately, no amount of diet, exercise and even liposuction could free you from these pesky fats. Over-the-counter drugs, creams and gels have all been used and have shown little or no effect at all.

But just when we thought we have exhausted all possible solutions, Marie France offers the most raved about cellulite buster in the US today – **Velasmooth**. Velasmooth is a non-invasive slimming treatment that uses Electro-Optical Synergy (ELOS) technology, which combines infrared light and radio frequency together with skin contouring action to improve your body shape and get rid of unsightly stubborn fat such as cellulite.

Velasmooth works by increasing circulation through infrared light. In the treated areas so that the energy stored in fat would be available for burning. Radio frequency then ensures that the infrared is focused on the fat problem. Lastly, the suction helps to contour the body, resulting to smoother, shapelier curves. Velasmooth is proven to give remarkable results with an average reduction in the following areas: Thighs – 4.19 cm., Abdomen-Waist – 3.73 cm., Hips – 3.86 cm., Bladine – 4.4 cm., Calves – 2.2 cm., and Upper arms – 1.4 cm.

Every Velasmooth program at Marie France is personalized as body fat problems vary from one woman to another. After a series of this 30-minute relaxing treatment, cellulite-ridden areas are guaranteed to smoothen out, further enhancing fat metabolism, which leads to the formation of a visibly sexier body. It can also be used if a client has loose skin that needs to be tightened, as a result of sudden weight-and-inch loss.

Finally breaking new grounds in the battle against cellulite, Velasmooth succeeds where all other products have failed. Don't miss your chance and let another sexy mini skirt pass you by. Call 894-BODY (2639) and get a Velasmooth program NOW.

Army kickboxers go after village thugs

From page A1

one kind of the lanky bantik looking instructor who could topple much bigger opponents with a combination of knee and elbow strikes done the muay thai way.

"This, to me, is the best and easiest way to do hand-to-hand combat," said Villega, 28, in an interview with the boys.

Not necessarily underrating the value of other disciplines, he said the techniques was custom-fit for field battle. It was originally a "battlefield skill" learned by every Thai soldier centuries ago, he explained.

The discipline, reluctantly now in the Philippine military scene, already had some background in judo and karate.

The two recruits that the soldiers spent under the tutelage of Villega completed the last phase of their six-month training before being deployed on sensitive field assignments.

At first, the batch would have 15 to 20 students. As the end of the training, the number would be pruned to just four or five "graduates."

Villega said it wasn't easy to earn the once and respect of the soldiers if most were like him simply gave resistance and lost.

In fact, most of the trainees were much bigger than their 5-foot-2, 109-pound teacher and could seemingly take him down with a single blow.

Villega knew, too, that his resume won't mean squat double. He has been a master of mass rival since 1996, including for graduations, many bouts or workers' boxing.

Villega's expertise isn't confined to the ring.

Sometime in 2003, he was walking near the train station on Buendia Avenue, Makati, when five men attacked him. One hit him with a lead pipe and a second one stuck on his left knee his left elbow.

They probably expected seeing with Villega, who said back of his attackers ended up on the pavement after seven vicious punches to their throats. The other three ran away.

In one session at the 2nd ID's base in Camp Capinpin, Villega asked for a volunteer. A well-built Army man stood up. He was about five inches taller than Villega.

He asked the soldier to attack him with impunity—any which way he could.

The volunteer threw a punch and missed. Before he could launch another attack he was on the floor with Villega straddling his chest taking stock of the vital points of contact.

From that day on, the soldier never convinced that this was one martial art they couldn't afford to take.

Lesson in three parts

Villega's lessons are divided into three parts: Visualization, mental screening and application.

The first phase teaches soldiers how to "survey" an opponent, identifying his weak points before making a strike.

"Or it without hesitation. If not, follow is likely," Villega told his students.

The second phase of mental screening hones the soldiers' instinct to strike the enemy that way by using the right points of contact—hands, feet, elbows and knees.

The third phase comes as a kind of "drumming," repeating the sure from the basic.

Villega trained the soldiers to integrate a standard jungle knife into the technique without necessarily relying heavily on the knife.

"If you can disarm your opponent without it, no problem. The knife is really optional," he reminded his students.

During his 4-year stint at Camp Capinpin, Villega trained around 1,000 soldiers. To his knowledge, a number of them had since crept behind enemy lines.

Not to be left behind, the special action force (SAF), the Philippine National Police's own elite unit, tapped Villega's services two years ago.

As in the case of the jungle fighters, Villega not only taught the policemen the technical and tactical aspects of using what he included discussions on the rich history of the sport, its meaning and importance to the Thai way of life.

It's not difficult for Filipinos to grasp the concept. "We are basically boxing-inbridge discipline," Villega said.

Respect was foremost in each training session. This was how the Thais-by-lended it in Isa. More importantly, the idea was to show deep respect to the source of the knowledge, he said.

Once in a while, Villega would bump into a former student. Looking impressing in a saver and bargain, the soldier would acknowledge Villega with a traditional "wai-kru" (honor bow).

A muay thai teacher always gets a kick out of that.

Soldier-athletes tapped to guard Magdalo men

From page A1

Maj. Augusto de la Peña, newly installed Philippine Air Force spokesperson, said nine soldier-athletes would be among the 62 soldiers tasked with guarding three Magdalo officers in their court hearings on rebellion raps.

The nine include a karambo expert, a basketball player, four soccer players, two judo experts and a tennis player. The soldier-stars are part of the Philippine Air Force Talk Kotse Pangangalaga which provides security to the three Air Force Magdalo rebel officers who face coup d'etat charges for taking part in the 2003 Oakwood mutiny.

So whatever Capt. Sagonbilao Serafin Jr. and First Lieutenants Francisco Ashley Acedillo and Silly Puerto amused court hearings in Makati City, are or more of the nine soldier-athletes escort them.

De la Peña declined to identify any of the nine soldier-athletes. "We can't divulge their names for security reasons because they are into performing a sensitive function," he said.

These soldier-athletes have seen action in national sporting events, the Air Force spokesperson added.

De la Peña also declined to say if there would be soldier-athletes guarding Ortigas, Senator Pimentel, Pangilinan and Biazon, respectively.

A source close to the rebel officers said the nine soldier-athletes had been assigned to guard Honasan and Biazon, respectively.

The source, who requested anonymity, said that Biazon jokingly asked to be handcuffed to the latter's courageous aide.

"Pero iga naman hindi nakinasan ng maalam (But Honasan would be his by the stronger arm)," the source said, chuckling.

However, De la Peña said there were no honors or sumptuous rewards in the task force's roster of soldiers.

He also said the task force did not intentionally assign soldier-athletes to the Magdalo officers because the former would reward the latter with brute force developed from constant training in sports.

"They are mainly soldiers with duties to perform. And just like any soldier, they are physically fit," De la Peña said.

The source said the three Magdalo senior officers had been exercising especially in their detention compound at PAF headquarters in Villamor Air Base.

Could they be planning to escape in their athletic prowess?

More likely they're fighting off weight gain and muscle atrophy. After being detained for nearly three years, they're not fit enough to tackle their brawny security escorts.

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2 Abu tipsters share ...

From page A1

...ssued interviews, comes from the US state department's "Rewards for Justice" program, which provides cash rewards for information leading to the arrest of terrorists involved in acts against Americans.

US Embassy spokesperson Matthew Tuttendorf said this was the third time the mission was playing Filipino informants under the program, saying that the scheme has been "very effective" in the Philippines.

There were now a total of six recipients of rewards in the country, counting the men who are set to receive P30 million, he said.

The three "major payouts" had handed over, it contributed nuts of almost $2 million, he said.

Pinthirdside, the reward system has paid out about $0.5 million to individual tipsters so far, he said.

WHO'S GOING TO BE A MILLIONAIRE? SCORE BIG WITH SCORE, SCORING to Lotteries.

It's counterintuitive training of Filipino troops has been credited with successes against the Abu Sayyaf, which is on a US list of terrorist organizations. Reports from AP and Yoli Contreras

Nothing to fear with antiterror law, say cops

By Leila A. del Puerto

THE NEED FOR AN antiterror law far outweighs the fear that it could be abused by government security forces, according to the police.

Senator recently expressed their reservations about supporting the antiterror bill after the opponents of ousted President Joseph Estrada claimed they were scarred without any reason and tortured by military agents last week to force them to admit they were part of a communist hit squad out to assassinate President Macapagal-Arroyo and members of her Cabinet.

"The need for an antiterror law is greater than the fear that this is going to be abused," Philippine National Police spokesperson Senior Supt. Samuel Pagdilao said yesterday.

"We do not have to wait for a 9/11 to tell us that there is a need for it," he said, adding that current laws were inadequate to address terrorism.

Claims of arbitrary arrests and torture by the "Erap 5" would remain debatable until the courts decided on this, he added.

"But the need for an antiterror bill is here and now. That's the reason why committee, even advanced countries, have their antiterror bills to address an extraordinary situation," Pagdilao said.

Police Senior Supt. Rodolfo Mendoza Jr. said the law is always open to abuse but could detain suspected terrorists for longer periods of time. This would give them enough time to investigate and follow up on leads.

Sen. Sergio Osmeña III said he was original. ly for the antiterror bill but the Erap 5 incident made him have "serious thoughts" about its passage.

The incident showed there was possible for the government to stretch the limits of the bill to "pursue true innocent civilians," Osmeña said.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel said the bad dent marked from the human rights violations could escalate once an antiterror bill was signed into law.

But police said the need for such a law "cannot be overemphasized."

Past bombings and kidnappings had clearly defined the Philippines as a target for terrorists, Pagdilao said.

And how would the government deal with fears of abuse?

"The legislature should come up with a law that would prosecute erring safeguards against abuse," Pagdilao said.

"On the part of the PNP we assured that we abide strictly [by] the rules governing arrests... and search," he added.

Become Pinoy in Taiwan

FORMER FILIPINOS who have become Taiwanese may regain Philippine citizenship without having to report in the Bureau of Immigration in Manila.

BI Commissioner Alipio Fernandez Jr. yesterday signed a memorandum of agreement with Tomas Abramura, chair of the Department Manila Economic and Cultural Office authorizing the latter to process and approve applications for dual citizenship.

Previously, those seeking dual citizenship had to travel to the Philippines.

Lolita S. Saliendrin

Logistics Management.
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60 Metro schools, hospitals, buildings vulnerable to big quake

From page A1

ous. No damage was reported.

"They were weak enough some people felt them. They happened separately and were not connected to the killer quake in Indonesia," Phivolcs chief Renato Solidum said.

LTO office, Children's Hospital

Aside from schools, three hospital buildings, three sports complexes and the two-story Land Transportation Office in Quezon City were among those found to have seismically unfit structures.

The medical facilities in urgent need of detailed evaluation are the three-story main building and the three-story spinal ward of the Philippine Orthopedic Center, and the Philippine Children's Medical Center, all in Quezon City.

Aside from the three buildings in the Philippine Arena in Bulacan, the other damaged sports facilities were identified as the one-story Quirino Grandstand and the one-story steel-framed building in the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex both in Manila.

The task force recommended that the buildings be evaluated immediately to determine what needed to be done to improve them.

Detailed evaluation

"Sixty buildings, (mostly school buildings) have been recommended for urgent detailed evaluation due to severity of damage that can be life threatening in case of major earthquake or any natural or manmade calamity," Public Works Undersecretary Rafaelito Pleyto, head of the Task Force on Building Inspection, said in his May 19 report to Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita Jr.

Aside from the 60 buildings, 166 others needed to be evaluated, Pleyto said.

His report was based on the task force's inspection of 1,980 buildings in Metro Manila as of the end of last month. The task force, composed of 21 teams of three people each, began its inspection of Metro Manila buildings in January.

Pleyto said the buildings whose damage could be life-threatening were those found to have cracks and weakened supports.

"One of the buildings we took out, the Banaue Hills Elementary School, had cracks in its walls, which could be very dangerous to the students when an earthquake occurs," he said in a phone interview.

The school has four stories.

Pleyto said the inspection teams were more concerned with buildings more than one-story high because these buildings posed more risk should they topple during an earthquake.

He said inspection teams prioritized schools and hospitals because they sheltered children and the sick.

Pakistan

The task force had written building officials to inform them of the condition of the inspected structures.

The Task Force on Building Inspection was formed last year following the earthquake that devastated Pakistan. Its duty is to determine the condition of public buildings and bridges and recommend measures to improve them so that they would have a better chance of withstanding earthquakes.

"Six bridges were evaluated and rated, and chosen for seismic retrofitting, which to our opinion should be the top priority and its implementation be pursued, the moment a shear the world begins," Bureau of Design Director Danilo Mandilag said in his Feb. 17 report to Pleyto.

The bridges are the Guzman Interchange, the left and right Quezon Bridge in Navotas town, the Ilaz Bridge in Caloocan City and the Sta. Mesa and Bo. Ugong bridges in Manila.

Cost of retrofitting the bridges was placed at P31 million.

Underpasses

The task force inspected a total of 329 road structures consisting of 201 bridges, 66 interchanges or flyovers, 56 underpasses and four tunnels.

Pleyto said the task force would later conduct inspection of buildings and bridges in the rest of the country.

"It is our duty to ensure that public buildings are strong enough to withstand most earthquakes and calamities," he said.

Ermita's chief of staff, Michael Defensor, said the Presidente would meet with officials of the National Disaster Coordinating Council this week to assess the government's disaster preparedness program. INQ7 reporter Jhoen Olvorko-Ki Arevalo, AP and AFP

BUILDINGS IN TROUBLE

FOLLOWING ARE SOME OF the buildings that need urgent detailed evaluation, according to the task force on Building Inspection of the Department of Public Works and Highways (only the names of 32 buildings were available. According to DPWH engineers, the names of eight buildings in Alicetown not on the list were with an engineer who was out of town.

Caloocan

Grolla Aparicio Elementary School (3-story building).

Makati

Pio del Pilar Elementary School (3-story RC building); Francisco Benitez Elementary School (3-story RC building).

Malabon

Imelda Elementary School; Malabon Elementary School (2-story Dalia Martires Wan Building); Malabon Elementary School (2-story Bonifacio Building); Potrero Elementary School (main Building); Navotas Polytechnic College (3-story building); San Roque Elementary School (2-story Rodrigues Building); Tinsga I Elementary School (2-story Old Rodrigues Building); and the Flores Elementary School (2-story DPWH building).

Mandaluyong

Eight buildings need urgent detailed inspection, but three were not named.

Manila

Araullo High School (4-story building with covered roof deck); Manila High School (3-story building with roof deck); Manuel L. Quezon High School (4-story building with roof deck); Quirino Grandstand (1-story building with concrete roof slab), and the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex (1-story steel-framed building).

Marikina

St. Mary's Elementary School (2-story Building C) and Tañong High School (4-story MCP Building).

Navotas

Sangkalan Elementary School (2-story Marcos-type); Daanghari Elementary School (2-story C. Bautista Building); Bagumbayan Elementary School (2-story Industrial Arts Building); Navotas Polytechnic College (3-story building); San Antonio Elementary School (2-story Sanson Building); San Andres St. Science Technology High School (2-story Tridentinos Building); Gumamela-Sipag Brgy. Pasa Y. Kalaw (2-story MCD building); the Pagasa High School (2-story DPWH building).

Pasay

Philippine Orthopedic Center (2-story spinal wing wing) and (3-story main building); Philippine Children's Medical Center, and the Land Transportation Office (2-story Lotus Building).

San Juan

Addition Hills Elementary School (1-story Ingang Liparan Building 2) and the Sta. Lucia Elementary School (2-story building).

Taguig

Bagong Tanyag Elementary School (2 buildings) and the Ibong Pipit Elementary School.

Valenzuela

Canumay West Elementary School (old 2-story building) and Marulas Elementary School (2-story MDS Building).

Source: Preliminary report of the Task Force on Building Inspection

Paranaque

Baesa Elementary School (3-story building); Bicutan Elementary School (3-story building); Don Galo Elementary School (3-story building); Merville Elementary School (3-story building); Moonwalk Elementary School (3-story building); Paranaque Elementary School (3-story building); Paranaque Science High School (3-story building); Sto. Niño Elementary School (3-story building); Tambo Elementary School (3-story building); Tambo Elementary School (3-story building); Tambo

Journalists' group defends right to bear arms

By Alcuin Papa

MS ARMED JOURNALISTS' group advocating the right of members of the media to bear firearms said it was not a violent group nor was it advocating violence.

Joel Sy Egco, president of the Association of Responsible Media (Armed), told the Inquirer the group's members had only taken their security into their own hands.

At the same time, Egco challenged the government to solve the number of journalists which now number 79.

"We are not a violent group. Some of us have been victims. So now our security is incumbent and inherent on us, it's an individual concern," he said.

Egco last week lashed the administration of Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez that journalists would be allowed to bear arms. But the Mankind Union of Journalists of the Philippines (PBLIPI) had countered that arming journalists would only "beget more violence."

"We are not picking a fight with the NUJP. It's their policy statement that we issue for a fact that NUJP leaders in Mindanao are armed. What is who is thinking that policy we don't know," Egco said. He added that NUJP leaders had admitted that arming journalists was a viable option.

"There is a need for our protection. Our firearms are for protection and sport purposes only. We cannot keep on blaming the police and government because they might be involved. We challenge the government in power on wrong," Egco said.

The aim of Armed, he said, is for journalists to "band together to become hard targets and not present ourselves as candidates for grave."

"Our group is one way of coming up with a concerted effort to show government that we are not taking all of this sitting down," Egco said.

He said the group was also calling for the creation of a multi-agency task force composed of the Department of Social Work and Development, Department of Justice, Philippine National Police, National Bureau of Investigation and other media groups to solve in one year all 79 cases involving the killing of journalists.

Egco also said Task Force Newsmen should be made a regular unit of the PNP and not activated only when newsmen were killed.

The group also called for laws ensuring "press freedom zones" and a special team of prosecutors to handle cases involving press freedom.

It also called on President Macapagal-Arroyo to "talk to the owners of the different publications and media outlets to provide journalists with better employment benefits and packages as a deterrent to corruption."

SUPPORT the passage of HOUSE BILL NO. 358, CONVERTING THE MUNICIPALITY OF BACOOR, PROVINCE OF CAVITE INTO A CITY, and as a LONE CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT.

Attend the hearing of the Committee on Local Government, scheduled on May 31, 2006 at 1:30pm at the Ramon Mitra Bldg., Batasan Pambansa Complex, Quezon City.

BACOOR has satisfied all the requirement of the LGC to become a CITY. IT IS EVEN QUALIFIED TO BE A PROVINCE. Let us hope that the LAWMAKERS IN CONGRESS BE NOT LIBERALGERS, as BACOOR has fully complied with all the qualifications needed.

Let it be acted upon on the merits and not on the basis of personal whims and caprices.

"LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE IN A PLEBISCITE."

JESSIE B. CASTILLO

Ex-Red peace adviser killed

Front page A1

Lizarso was the 224th militant to be murdered since President Macapagal-Arroyo assumed the presidency, according to an inventory tally.

His death was the latest in a cluster of killings of militants or leftist figures during the past two months. Ten were murdered in April and Lizarso was the eighth killed in January this month.

A man with a varied past, the 55-year-old Lizarso spent 20 years as a rebel, rising to become a regional chief of the Communist Party of the Philippines, before leaving the armed movement.

In 2004, he was the governor of Aklan under the breakaway faction of opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson in the Lakas ng Demokratikong Pilipino, local bar.

At the time of his death, Lizarso was engaged in the scrap business and was probably on his way to Mayon Checks Inc., a drydocking facility, according to relatives. He was also riding a narrow road at 8:30 a.m.

"They really wanted him dead," said Chief Insp. Victor Boco, the regional police chief, adding that he had received a task force to investigate the killing. The Associated Press reported.

Talusan's chief police investigator, Insp. Fernando Ortega, said Lizarso suffered three fatal bullet wounds – one in the back and one in the head.

He was pronounced dead on arrival at the Imeldo Gipo Memorial Hospital, a few minutes from the ambush site.

Shot at close range

His driver and friend, Mariano Otiaro, was hit in the right arm.

Otiaro said he was maneuvering the van when the gunmen pulled up to its side and fired at Lizarso at close range.

He said he managed to speed away when he saw Lizarso bleeding, but he crashed into a parked vehicle.

Otiaro said the attackers made sure Lizarso was dead by shooting him again as he was falling.

He said he could not identify the gunmen but their cars appeared to be around 96.

The fatal shot

A witness said that before the ambush, the gunmen had dropped by a nearby store.

Found at the crime scene were four empty shells and a live bullet for a .45-cal. pistol.

Dr. Jose Cope said one of the bullets penetrated the lower part of Lizarso's ear, causing instant death. He was also wounded in the shoulder and abdomen.

Lizarso was among about 50 people arrested by the justice department in February of conspiring with five militant lawmakers, other leftists and rebel soldiers to kill Mr. Arroyo and overthrow her administration.

A Makati judge refused to accept the charges but state prosecutors subsequently refiled them.

Lizarso had a bounty of P1.5 million on his head when he was wounded and captured in 1995 after a clash with government troops in Batangas. Police identified him then as the secretary for Mindoro of the Communist Party of the Philippines and national chief of staff of the NPA.

A Quezon City judge ordered his release in June 1996.

Military claims

A political science and philosophy graduate of Aliling's Aquinas University, Lizarso became a political consultant and security officer of the communist-led National Democratic Front peace talks with the government.

He was a founding organizer of the party-list group Bayan Muna.

In Lucena City, Lt. Gen. Pedro Cabuay Jr., commander of the military's Southern Luzon Command, immediately pointed to the NPA as the suspects in the killing of Lizarso.

"By all indications, Lizarso's killing was an NPA hit squad operation on orders of the Communist Party of the Philippines," he said in an interview. "This latest killing was a convincing episode of the ongoing internal purge within the movement."

Counterrevolutionary!

Cabuay claimed that Lizarso was disowned by his former comrades when he ran for the Aklan governorship last year in 2004.

"His running for election was not approved by the CPP since then. Lizarso was perceived to be a counterrevolutionary in the mold of Ernesto, Tabaza and Lagman," the Bicolano chief said.

He was referring to Felimon "Popoy" Lagman, Romulo Kintanar and Arturo Tabara, all former leaders of the rebel movement who were also assassinated supposedly by their former comrades.

With reports from Ephraim Aguilar and Delfin F. Mallari Jr., and Cyril L. Bonabole, PDI Research

SEN. Panfilo Lacson, then a presidential aspirant in the 2004 elections, raises the hand of Aurora Vice Governor Lizarso during the oath-taking of members of the Lakas-ng Demokratikong Pilipino-Kampi. (PDI file photo)

Correction

IN THE MAY 7 ISSUE, a caption of a front-page photo mistakenly that ancestors of the Ifugao had built the rice terraces in Bontoc, Mountain Province. Ancestors of the tribal folk in Mountain Province built the Banaue Rice Terraces, not the Ifugao. The same caption misstated the distance from Bontoc to Sagada. The town of Bontoc lies 19 km... not 10 km... from the town of Sagada.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, May 5th, 2005
7th Week of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 20:17-27
Gospel: John 17:1-11

Jesus lifted up his eyes to heaven and said,
"Father, the hour has come; give glory to your
Son, that the Son may give glory to you. You
have given him power over all mortals, and
you want him to bring eternal life to all you
have entrusted to him. For this is eternal life,
to know you, the only true God, and the One
you sent, Jesus Christ.
"I have glorified you on earth and finished
the work that you gave me to do. Now, Father,
give me in your presence the same Glory I had
with you before the world began.
"I have made your name known to those
you gave me from the world. They were yours
and you gave them to me, and they kept your
word. And now they know that all you have
given me comes indeed from you. I have given
to them the teaching I received from you,
and they received it and know in truth that I
came from you, and they believe that you
have sent me.
"I pray for them; I do not pray for the
world but for those who belong to you and
whom you have given to me—indeed all. I
have in return and all you have is mine—and
now this is my glory. I am no longer in the
world, but they are in the world while I am
going to you. Holy Father, keep them in your
Name [that you have given me,] so that they
may be one, just as we are."

Commentary:

Need to telling know of his communities, nothing is put things in order before he goes to prison/death. And Jesus does this as his last statement to prayer to the Father, having us listen in on his words. (read by prayer for the friends, for all of us who come after their who keep his word. We have been entrusted with the Word and with everything the Father shared with Jesus, even his own Spirit of truth and mystery of love. He reminds us the world but God is with us: Father, Son and Spirit. We must pray this prayer in our own, together.

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No more safe haven, says Left

From page A1

Ocampo said the criminal information filed by the DOJ in a Makati City court had turned into a virtual "death sentence" for those named in respondents.

GMA accountable

"President Arroyo should realize that her tolerance over the murders of her perceived critics and her promotion of restrictive rights measures are being interpreted as a blanket authority by the military to justify summary executions and extrajudicial killings," said Ocampo.

"She will eventually be held accountable for all these shamefully crimes."

Malacañang denied any hand in the killing of Lumasi.

President Macapagal-Arroyo had ordered the police and the justice department to investigate the murder, Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor said.

"I want to make it clear that Ka Bebot Lumasi is not an enemy of the government," Defensor told reporters. "He joined the government and helped in many programs of government and that's why we don't have any interest and no one in the government had any interest...even the military, to one have to done to him."

Defensor also doubted that Lumasi was a victim of a "communist purge."

For one thing, Lumasi had left the movement and had been working above ground with a nongovernment organization, he said.

'A death list'

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said people should not speculate on Lumasi's killing because the police were now investigating the case.

Sen. Lito Misa described the charge sheet as "virtually a death list" put together by the administration to silence dissenters.

The list filed by lawmakers Rep. Teddy Casiño, who were also arrested in the rebellion case, said the killing of Lumasi and the reported disappearance of rebel Philip Limjoco meant that they had already been judged by the government's "death squad."

"People in the charge sheet are already being killed one by one.... This is very alarming and we condemn the political killings and ambush of Lumasi. Nevertheless, we shall continue to push for our advocacy that serves the interest of the poor Filipino people," said Misa.

RP's 'killing field'

Other opposition lawmakers were also shocked by the news of Lumasi's murder.

Rep. Rufus Rodriguez of Pasabuyan said: "This is the inevitable consequence when police and even the military are used to run after political enemies instead of addressing rising criminality."

Golez said he believed the country was now "becoming a killing field for journalists, militants and other prominent personalities, like mayors and former congressmen."

"Whoever is perpetrated the killing of Ka-ru Lumasi ... left, right, government ... this is ultimately the responsibility of government," said Golez.

Rep. Rafael Mariano, for his part, said he feared a further escalation of "state-sponsored political killings."

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Sen. Panfilo Lacson also condemned the Lumasi murder.

A terrible message

"This is a terrible message being sent to our people on the sad state of law and order in our country," Pimentel told reporters.

"It is an indication that the security of people is put at risk simply because they are advocating ideas that may be different from the espoused views of people in government."

Lacson, who endorsed Lumasi's candidacy when he ran for Albay governor in the May 2004 elections, said: "Either there's a patriot or a traitor to us in the military groups and the critics of the Arroyo administration by way of assassination and arrests."

"So I'd like to urge the likes of Sen. Aiken Ocampo and company to take care of their own personal security," Lacson said.

State of terrorism

Pimentel said the Lumasi case was proof of the "state of terrorism" in place in the country and this had made some senators think twice about advocating early passage of the antiterror bill. (For related story, see Page A8.)

"Considering recent developments, we are apprehensive that if you enact an antiterrorism bill, you place another weapon in the hands of the administration to harass and even abuse and exterminate those who are opposed to the government, even politically speaking."

Pimentel said the creation of a task force to investigate Lumasi's killing was a "good start," but the best solution "would be for the Arroyo to issue an order to stop the killings, identify the killers and prosecute them."

Rondall Debuque, country secretary general of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas who had been also implicated in the rebellion case, admitted that he, too, feared for his life.

"The military and police concerned (the charge sheet) lie into a death warrant," he said. "The UI process, especially those who are in the legal parliamentary struggle, are now open targets."

Lomibao's order

Philippine National Police Director General Arturo Lomibao was briefed on the Lumasi killing before he left yesterday on a 10-day trip to the United States and Europe.

Police spokesperson Senior Supt. Samuel Pagkilinan said Lomibao instructed the police director for Bicol and Southern Luzon "to do everything within their means ... to solve the killings and to bring to the bar of justice those who are doing these." With reports from Christine O. Avendaño, TJ Burgonio, Jocelyn R. Ty and Lilia A. del Puerto

Church group decries killings

A KEY PROTESTANT ORGANIZATION HAS denounced the Arroyo administration for its apparent failure to stop the spate of killings of remaining activists and church workers.

In a resolution, the general assembly of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP) lashed out at the government for not conducting "any serious and painstaking investigation."

"Inactivity and silence, evasive and dismissive and prevaricating characterize the state responses of the establishment, including those coming from the office of no less than the commander in chief," the group said.

The UCCP noted that some of the victims were its own members perceived by the government to be "subversives left-leaning."

They were Rev. Jovitas Tinambacan, Jose Doton, Pastor Andy Pawikan and, most recently, Noel Capulong.

Tinambacan, 69, was gunned down in Mindoro Occidental on May 9; Doton, 62, in Pampanga seven days later; Pawikan, 30, in Nueva Ecija on May 21, and Capulong in Laguna last May 27.

"We strongly decry and denounce the ongoing unmitigated killings of militants and activists in our society and hereby call upon the military leadership, especially the Commander in Chief, President Macapagal-Arroyo, to immediately cease the stopping of these extrajudicial executions and to employ all means to bring to justice, without delay all those responsible for the commission of the crimes," the UCCP said. Christine V. Esguerra

be kantabataan

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Vol. 21 No. 173

Preparedness

WHILE PHILIPPINE EXPERTS HAVE SAID THAT the deadly tremor that recently struck Indonesia was not cause for alarm, we should not be complacent and instead prepare for earthquakes. Probably no other natural disaster can cause so many deaths and so much damage so quickly and in so little time. Thus, the best way to avoid disasters caused by earthquakes is to take corrective measures now and plan and prepare for them.

EDITORIALS

The Philippines, like Indonesia and Japan, is prone to earthquakes because it lies within the Pacific "Ring of Fire." The Ring, which actually looks like an arc, stretches from New Zealand, passes through Indonesia, the Philippines and Japan, goes north to Alaska and goes down along the western coast of North and South America. Almost 90 percent of the world's earthquakes and 81 percent of its largest ones occur along the Ring of Fire.

The Philippines is also earthquake-prone because it is in a zone being squeezed by the convergent motion between the Philippine sea plate on the east and the Eurasian plate on the west. Earthquakes are a fact of life in the Philippines; mild tremors occur almost daily and are recorded by modern instruments in seismographic stations throughout the country.

Since the 6.8-intensity earthquake that struck Luzon on July 16, 1990 and killed more than 1,000 people, the Philippines has been struck by close to 16,000 tremors, according to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology.

Can we predict and prevent earthquakes? Unfortunately, the answer is no, unless some way can be found to stop the Earth's tectonic plates from moving. The next best thing we can do is to prepare for earthquakes. We are more fortunate than Indonesia because many of our buildings are built according to the specifications of the Building Code. Some of the more recent buildings are similar to those in Japan that have springs that act like shock absorbers in a car.

Government engineers and inspectors should identify the areas that are in seismic risk, and start with them. The top 10 provinces that are at risk are Surigao del Sur, La Union, Benguet, Pangasinan, Pampanga, Bulac, Ifugao, Davao Oriental, Nueva Vizcaya and Nueva Ecija. Precautions also have to be taken in thickly populated cities like Metro Manila.

Private citizens, especially owners of big buildings and businesses, can do their part by having their establishments inspected for cracks in the walls and the grounds around the building examined for faults.

National Geographic is to its April issue said that scientists in Japan have settled the question of predictability of earthquakes. It said: "Earthquakes follow a pattern. They have detectable precursors." The government would do well to send the country's earthquake experts to Japan to learn from its scientists. In the meantime, the government and the private sector have to cooperate in setting up a coordinated disaster preparedness program to minimize casualties and damage to the extent that "the big one" strikes.

Protection

ONE OF THE MOST RIDICULOUS PROPOSALS to come from government in recent times is the suggestion to journalists to carry guns to protect themselves against would-be assassins. It is a tacit admission that the administration cannot carry out one of the most basic duties of a government, which is to enforce law and order and protect citizens.

If the proposal is to be carried to its logical conclusion, then leftist militants and activists, who are being killed by the dozens, should also be provided with guns. Businessmen should also carry guns to protect themselves from robbers, car thieves and kidnappers. Students should also carry guns to be able to fight hold-up men and cell phone snatchers. And so on, and so forth. Pretty soon the entire country will be one Wild, Wild, West where anybody who can afford the price of a gun will be packing one.

Nandy Pacheco, the proponent of a Gun Bris Society and a leader of Ang Kapatirang Pang, said: "Why rally, the government promotes domestic detainment, 'gunocracy' and the gun culture."

And now it is throwing up its hands and giving journalists the responsibility for protecting themselves. But many journalists can't even shoot straight. So, arming journalists is not the answer; the government simply must enforce law and order and provide protection for everybody, including journalists.

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Final nail or clumsy footwork?

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

"IT WAS THE FINAL NAIL ON HIS LEGAL coffin that he ironically hammered down himself."

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles and Zest of Senate President Joseph Estrada's administration, to start, that he signed bank documents as "Jose Velarde."

That point is crucial. As Prosecutor Aldee Aytona rightly said at the Estrada impeachment trial, "The case will be won or lost through bank records." But the "final nail" is for the courts to decide. All we can say now is that this is clumsy footwork with names. Then, we wrote in recent letters:

"No. Erap has to sign any real name." And passed the mutilated border of Blues commissioner Moc and Borjas. "I'm just breaking it to him a friend."

"Sid Espaldon Concha after the court ruled that he can't be prosecuted for signing, before married Espaldon-PCIBank officers, as Jose Velarde?"

That was not a crime in February 2000. The prohibition on aliases or numbered accounts in the Anti-Money Laundering Law took effect only in October 2001.

The account started with a 31 deposit on Aug. 26, 1999. When closed on Nov. 10, 2000, a held P3.1 billion.

Not mine, Erap said, that belonged to my good friend, Jaime Dichaves.

In a February 200 interview, Estrada told ABS-CBN TV he objected to Jose Velarde as a "prisoner of William Gatchalian for the account of Jaime Dichaves."

Was this the Jose Velarde everyone had been foolishly looking for, many asked then.

Whatever in the world does a guarantee for build a Lifetime Site supposedly secured with a false name—and on somebody else's "bankbook"? Defies logic.

Was Estrada breaking it, as Gonzalez Mere did, assume his name? Gossips have them like to mean but, than he lay down his name for a friend."

A name, the dictionary says, is "a word or phrase that constitutes the distinctive designation of a person or thing."

William Saunders" and "Jose Ryan" were names that appeared on Swiss bank papers. Edna Lumanlo stumbled across them listening Malacañang floors after the Marcoses fled.

It was not illegal in 1986 to have pseudonymous bank books. But the Marcoses never admitted to a cronyclo caper. Unlike Estrada, they didn't sign bank documents before a Chelsea Beamps.

Filipino statists on names are linked to integrity issues the authority on our proverbs, University of the Philippines professor emeritus Damiana Eugenio. "A good name is better than wealth," is an axiom common to Hanunuo, Ilocanos, Pampangueños and Bukidnons.

In an Inquirer series, Gilda Cordero Fernando detailed how Filipino names have changed, reflecting the country's checkered history. "Pre-1521 Filipinos using the first decades of the American occupation produced names like ... Amerasians (America-Europe-Philippines) Ita, Ola, Bradley," she notes. "Longer names—like Hadrosina, Quinterino, Diamando—were less transient. ... Shorter names of two or three syllables became the in thing. ... Lourdes Jensen Lolo but not Darling and with time, Linda Ehrenstein became Ina."

Alejandro names erupt in after World War II. "There was a boom in Mary Jane (though it will closed for Maria Leonor or Maria Luisa.) ... The Marcos years also the period when the feminine "ith" was added to nicknames as a form of endearment. So, we had Nenith, Nerith, Odenith."

The present years, Fernando says, gave children fighting names like Mah, Kobe, Brenda, Jamal, Madonna ...

Gerardo impeachment turned up a names-are-of-code names. Witness Carmencita Arroyo, for example, damsel Singh

Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's husband, Mike, is right to defend himself.

One is tempted to say that he misses the point. One is tempted to say that in a democracy of sensible, enlightened people disagreements between citizens—even those not just to torture but to the possibility of being summarily executed without the world knowing any better, is the real crime. But since they are no longer particularly interested in being reminded of the necessity of democracy since they've gotten now is simply "Batasan na lang nyan," let me just say that if what Gonzalez says is true—(aren't) that one of the "Erap 3," Ruben Ilusorio, is not to assassinate him among other GMA officials—then we have every right to demand from Gonzalez an unless public apology. Whether he is able to carry out his plan or not, we have a right to ask him to face the nation on TV and say:

"As you all know, assassinations are normally carried out by people half my age, but in my case, though I am very frail and sickly, I have been compelled by my conscience to contemplate it. I was anxious to protect my children's future. And so I planned to rid the world of two sons. But if I knew then what I know now, I would never have even considered it. It would have been a disservice to my country and people. Why would I want to put half of the country who very literally gives this fake government the kind of love it so richly deserves? Why should I want to get rid of someone who, by his actions and utterances, effectively gives the citizens to know what kind of justice they may expect from this regime?"

The case of the "Erap 3" drove deeps on the "Hello Garci" tape and GMA's subsequent apology for "lapse in judgment" by those content. In the first, despite having nothing but circumstantial evidence to go by (by Gonzalez's own admission), the authorities seized the "Erap 3" without warrant and, for a while, held them at their pleasure. In the second, despite having 1,000s and Garci's DNA imprinted voices in a tape playing on radio and TV, the president refused to order GMA without hesitation and held her in total displeasure. In the first, the "Erap 3" were never given the chance to face their accusers, they were just given the chance to face their torturers. In the second, GMA was never given the chance to face her accusers in court, but was just given the chance to face their wrath, which rejoices them not just to torture but to the possibility of being summarily executed without the world knowing any better, is the real crime. But since they are no longer particularly interested in being reminded of the necessity of democracy since they've gotten now is simply "Batasan na lang nyan," let me just say that if what Gonzalez says is true—(aren't) that one of the "Erap 3," Ruben Ilusorio, is not to assassinate him among other GMA officials—then we have every right to demand from Gonzalez an unless public apology. Whether he is able to carry out his plan or not, we have a right to ask him to face the nation on TV and say:

"As you all know, assassinations are normally carried out by people half my age, but in my case, though I am very frail and sickly, I have been compelled by my conscience to contemplate it. I was anxious to protect my children's future. And so I planned to rid the world of two sons. But if I knew then what I know now, I would never have even considered it. It would have been a disservice to my country and people. Why would I want to put half of the country who very literally gives this fake government the kind of love it so richly deserves? Why should I want to get rid of someone who, by his actions and utterances, effectively gives the citizens to know what kind of justice they may expect from this regime?"

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As I said before, the only thing that's more frightening than that corpses, figuratively and literally, litter our perennial every day is that all we do is sleep through it without an eye pout about by, which, like Arthur to a cop, guarantees they will multiply a hundredfold.

When are we going to get angry at this?

* * *

One of my eagle-eyed readers, Larry Rivera, who works with the Department of Public Health Services, the city of Medicine, "for sure, sure this

"The story Cito Quinto attributed to George Carlin was not written by George Carlin (even his widow denies this) but by the author is a minister, author and former pastor of Overlake Christian Church in Redmond, Washington, in a response to an inquiry by TruthOrfiction.com, Dr. Bob Mumford said he wrote it in 1990. It was later published in 1995 in his book "Words Aptly Spoken." Paperback: 198 pages. Publisher: Overlake Christian Bookstore."

What can I say? Paradoxically me, in this day and age, we have more words of wisdom but fewer honest men.

When are we going to get angry at this? (Part 2)

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I SAW THE EXCHANGE BETWEEN JINGGOY Estrada and the people responsible for the abduction of the "Erap 3" in a tense hearing last week. Rush was the depth of the younger Estrada's fury he spoke in straight English. He had every reason to be furious. The people he was facing at the hearing were the same people of their supporters from shop, bundled them off to God knows where, tortured them, denied they had them in their custody, and after being found out, showed no contrition. Indeed, they showed only arrogance, dismissing the incident as a tempest in a teapot.

Estrada rightly demanded an apology. He angled one for it MP Pete Information Office chief, Ivan Kinet, the fellow who had **adamantly denied the MP had the "Erap 3."**

And this is the part where I nearly fell off my seat. Pressured by questions afterward, Kinet first scoffed at the idea of apologizing for the deed before he lapsed into a rueful silence. **Pity should be apologize?** he asked. He had already voiced his position.

What can one say? There's a virus going around among this country's government officials, civilian and military, that's deeply compassion. The only thing commendable in Kinet's behavior is that at least he did not say that what he did, which needs to be through his neck when he said they did not have the "Erap 3," was a lapse in judgment. But he shares in the same attitude of his commander in chief and colleagues, now the husband of officialdom, which says, "Deal. So what?"

Raul Gonzalez, the incredibly named Justice secretary, now says, "By mali?" But with a more brazen value he means by "By mali?" is not that they were wrong to have arrested the suspects without warrants and turned them over dropped them but to have actually released one of them! He has reason to believe, Gonzalez says, that the fellow is a member of the New People's Army who is here on assassinating GMA and some of her Cabinet officials. Everything him. If someone wants to kill him, he himself on TV, his business countering even more. Of that as possible to imagine), he has a right to defend himself.

Not to be outdone by the others, Gonzalez has also said that the "Erap 3" are not victims but "suspects in the commission of crimes." Which is to say that they are not victims but suspects in the commission of crimes. Which is to say that they are not victims but suspects in the commission of crimes. Which is to say that they are not victims but suspects in the commission of crimes.

US Senate bill a double whammy for RP

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cassman

$90,000 by 2020. There is now a big controversy about how to fill that gap. One school of thought is that the US Congress should legislate that the E3 nursing education system by setting up more nursing schools. I submit, however, that the real way to find better Americans want to enter the nursing as well as the nursing teaching profession, as many other fields are more attractive financially and require less work. Another school of thought apparently prefers the simplest solution: import nurses. Enter the stupid bill that lives RP and sending them with immigrant visas. As the Times story noted, many US legislators look at it as a question of market forces at work, but others regard this as "an ethically questionable" strategy considering what the disaster hurricane does to those poorer countries' health care system.

Our legislators have to look at the problem squarely and find workable solutions. Senior years Jack Frederick Maxingsar Arroyo was asked about this problem and she said, "We all must nothing to boast." But it is not for us simple citizens. What we do we prepare ourselves, do not nurses and other related staff? These measures are not foolproof. Before a machine runs preparations, our legislators should address the problem by looking at the training system, getting more instructors and schoolbuildings and low like, although this may be like working on's fingernails clean in a like.

* * *

Over the past week and a half, the Philippines played host to over 400 delegates from over 60 countries who came for the 31st Unesco International Theater Institute World Congress. In other countries that have hosted this biennial activity it was held usually in only one city, as was the case for the 36th Congress in Tampico, Mexico. The 61st quadrennial Congress, however, featured a complex structure of interrelated activities distributed in many different venues. There were the speakers' forums set by Unesco Secretary General Koichiro Matsuura, the International Meeting and Experts' Workshop of Theatre Centers and Institutes, the Theatre Olympics of the Masters, which saw various companies showing off their prize, more-or-less and other organic presentations, the World Festival of Young Theatre, which brought in Japanese drama schools to 10 different regional cities to interact with the faculty and students of various universities and colleges and local folk. 23 workshops conducted by noted foreign drama professors in various schools in Metro Manila, Cebu and Iloilo, etc.

* * *

The multilayered congress was, to say the least, quite an undertaking undertaking three presidents, a succession of cultural shows, receptions and entertainments. But by and large, it proved successful, thanks to the organizers' most dedication and the Filipino's natural hospitality. Even Japanese Ambassador Philippines Commerce and secretary professions Ronald Dee lent his car for one by an African embassy have for a visiting dignitary's entourage. Hosting the event, Philippines president Sergio Osmeña III, Philippines president Sergio Osmeña III, Philippines president Sergio Osmeña III

Child abuse on TV

LETTERS

ON THE MORNING OF MAY 28, I HAPPENED TO watch part of a TV program shown by a major TV network. Though it said Bella "Sherried Cinderella" marrying, it featured a "double workshop" in serving. It's like workshop is serving women, serving as a whore/mistress, avoided, divorced or and rejected children of famous gurus up who were supposed to be "acting."

As one point, she showed part of a sale into the face of a child. Every single boy and girl in the "workshop" was subjected to such scene. In example of innocence, the young women had the grace to embrace the children at the end of their acts. Adults, whom I took to be the parents of these youngsters, were sitting in the audience, some of them shedding tears too.

How can children of that age distinguish between what is "real" and what is only "acting?"

The TV network was exploiting and abusing the children. So were their parents. The people behind the program should be in jail. What they were doing was different only in degree from child pornography.

—BR. SILAS CEPALO
San Columbanus,
PO Box 1600, 1135 Makati City

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The unabated murder of Filipino

ABOUT FOUR YEARS AGO, a letter of mine was published in the Inquirer letter section. In that letter I asked this question: Does the Kastilyan ng Wikang Filipino care enough to stop the "murder" being committed every day to many innocent people against the Filipino language?

I am asking this same question again because the murder of the language goes on and on. Besides, since I moved to Cebu, I have yet to see the Kastilyan taking a concrete action on the matter.

Any watch or listen to TV or radio announcers/broadcasters. The massacre of the Filipino language shocks the ordinary, the civil. "nahuyan" for "nahuhuya," "nasiba" for "nahuli", "nasiba-ling nanyak /nahihuli /nadidisgrasya" for "napapatay" "nadidismaya nadismaya" for "nadidismayado" "sinil" for "kapasil", and many more "grave terms."

I even suggested, then, that the Kastilyan ng Wikang Pambansa offer refresher courses for media and select campus people, considering that they are the ones who totally trample the national language instead of being the effective tools in strengthening, enhancing, improving and enriching it.

How can we watch our language if, on our day to day use of it on TV and radio stations—and even by writers of Filipino texts—we allow it to be continuously vitiated with the vulgar words of street talk?

People of the Kastilyan ng Wikang Filipino, wake up!

—ELSA M. CLOUSE,
elsagarton@yahoo.com

Passive, indifferent followers of Christ

I WAS APPALLED AT THE REACTION AND the position taken by some Christians—Catholics, Protestants and Born Again—vis-à-vis the justification peddled by the author of the movie and the producers of the blasphemous film "The Da Vinci Code." Both the book and the film are fiction, and that, if one's faith in Christ is based on the author's story alone, therefore, the government's Movie Television Review and Classification Board has no reason to ban the film.

But we have cause to be angry at and rage against Dan Brown, Columbia Pictures and Sony Pictures.

It is not a question of whether the film has broken any law on censorship. The issue is that the book and the film, in the guise of being fiction, have maligned our Lord and our God, insulted our faith, very harmful to the consciousness of Christians all over the world, who hold the divinity of Jesus Christ as sacred.

If I were to write a book about your father proving I suppose you have in the highest esteem, and depict him as corrupt, a drunkard, addict, a womanizer and a wife beater ("though he is not), and justify the story as mere fiction, how would you feel? Then I produce a film based on this book about your father for the whole world to see him evil in to, again justifying it to mere fiction, will you take it sitting down?

It is to crime like these that I admire and envy our Muslim brothers who hold Allah and the Prophet Muhammad sacred—in fact, the use of their names in vain provokes in them so much courage and zeal that they would even threaten to death those responsible for the desecration.

"The Da Vinci Code" is only the most recent in a long list of acts of desecration, irreverence and disrespect directed to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Even the name Jesus Christ is part of the vocabulary of disrespectful expressions and vain words in the Christian world. Just watch any movie and programs on television and you will know what I am talking about.

Now we Christians become so passive and lose our sensitivities to it as dulled by all the evil and corruption around us that we now just accept any such disrespect as by people who will do anything to make a fast buck? And we are beating our breasts in the form we mete out to those like the movie people will watch it? We should not call ourselves Christians if we cannot even defend Jesus Christ.

—CARLOS VILORIA III,
dpublicservice@yahoo.com

Neither slow nor pro-capitalist

IMET/LAKE TO RESPOND TO THE CLAIMS OF a militant group that the country's wage-fixing system is "slow, unfair and pro-capitalist." (POS, 5/22/06)

Many are unaware by means of BR 8727 or the Wage Rationalization Act, our regional wage boards always consider the following factors, among others, in setting the minimum wage: the consumer price index, the cost of living, the needs of workers and their families, as well as the need to induce industries to invest in the countryside.

Based on these and other relevant factors, the wage boards, which are tripartite in composition, ensure fair and adequate representation of both workers and employers in the wage-setting process.

Contrary to charges that the wage boards are "hopelessly slow," our records show that wage boards take an average of 95 days to issue wage orders. This is well within the period prescribed by the law, which requires public hearings within 45 days from the date of the initial hearing, and the issuance of wage orders itself within 20 days after the last hearing...not to mention the unnecessary effort to study the cases. On top of this, of some 175 wage orders issued, 104 or 61.37 percent were issued more prompt by the boards notwithstanding the lack of any wage petition.

The group called Bayan ng Mangggagawa, Ibaan's Consumers Chapter in the Visayas failed to cite that in the industrially growing Cebu province region, labor and employers, together with the government, have balanced the wage factors.

Moreover, the group failed distinctly to pinpoint in charge of "a dominant and size loophole" that allegedly plague the wage-setting law, nor acts stated the need for "exemptions for distressed companies, small and medium enterprises and [infant] enterprises employing 15 workers and below.

Indeed, notwithstanding the fragile economic recovery of our country, the wage boards have nowhere been insensitive to the plight of our workers. Neither have they been biased, or adopted, in favor of the "capitalists." This is because the boards are mandated to set minimum wages "as is economically feasible to maintain the minimum standard of living necessary for the health, efficiency and general well-being of the employees."

In determining reasonable wage adjustments amid changes in the prices of basic goods and services, the amounts of increases usually granted by the wage boards, for example in the National Capital Region, the country's largest economy, tend to be almost always higher than the amounts needed to compensate for erosion in wages.

In fulfilling this mandate, the tripartite wage boards always make the most careful and balanced decisions, considering the mere fact that without the adequate representation of labor and management could result in potential inflation and joblessness due therefore competitiveness, and finally trade recession.

—JOSE T. JUSAY,
OIC-Director,
Information and Publication Service,
Department of Labor and Employment,
Intramuros, Manila

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Across the NATION

Gloria puts Boracay under PTA

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO has placed the island resort of Boracay under the administrative control of the Philippine Tourism Authority (PTA).

The President signed Memorandum Order No. 214 in April and which was released last week, placing the world renowned island resort under PTA control to ensure the sustainable development of the country's prime tourist destination, said Gloria Tremaya, tourism regional director in Western Visayas.

Under the order, the PTA control would be exercised through the Tourism Zoning Group (TZG) in coordination with the Aklan provincial government and the municipality of Malay where Boracay is located.

Capacity

Mr. Arroyo last year created the TZG to oversee the development of the island amid growing concerns over unplanned and uncontrolled development of the island that could go beyond its carrying capacity.

Headed by Environment Undersecretary Ramon Paje, the TZG is mandated to map out policies for the sustainable development of the island's tourism industry.

Tremaya said the order was in line with the PTA's mandate to control and manage tourism zones and areas to be declared.

The order was also based on Presidential Proclamation 1801 issued by the late President Ferdinand Marcos on Nov. 10, 1978.

The proclamation placed several islands and coves, including Boracay, as tourist zones and marine reserves under the administration and control of the PTA.

The lands were categorized as public-owned and the government has the prerogative on the management and utilization of its resources.

Building supervision

Tremaya said this under the memorandum, the construction of buildings and structures in the area would be subject to PTA approval.

Operations of support services and infrastructures, like ports, would also be under the supervision of the PTA.

Currently, the construction of structures and operations of support infrastructures are being supervised by the municipal and provincial governments.

Tremaya said they are still waiting for the implementing rules that would define the scope of the PTA's authority and the administrative body that would be created.

He understand the order as an initial step in the creation of a regular management body that would govern the development of the island.

Tourism haven

Tourist arrivals in the island resort of Boracay enjoy a current and upswing, records from the tourism department showed.

The number of visitors last year reached 499,537, 16.46 percent higher than the 430,753 recorded in 2004.

The tourists poured in 09.18 billion-peso in 28 percent higher than the P7.16 billion that the island earned in 2004.

INSIDE

Punish irresponsible parents, solons told /A14

ARMM teachers' salaries delayed /A14

Church, LGU execs tell voters: Get info on Cha-cha /A14

DENR gives illegal fish pens 3 mos /A14

GLOWING GLOVES: In this handout photo provided by the US Navy, Navy Lt. Stella Annacondia, a nurse from New Jersey, entertains a patient aboard the hospital ship USNS Mercy, May 27, 2006 in Zamboanga City.

6 mayors in Isabela brace for court war with gov over taxes

ILAGAN, ISABELA—"WE WILL see her in court."

This was the reply of two of the six Isabela mayors who Gov. Grace Aleta Cielo Padaca threatened to sue for reconsideration of the P13.9-million share of the provincial government from real property taxes for the past two years.

Padaca did not identify the mayors on her list she was referring to Sagnaya Dr. Odilon, Jose Panganiban, R. Dy-gabatanel, Ludivico Albano (Ilagan), Arnulfo Valera, R. Edding, Abraham Lim (San Isidro), and Francisco Ignacio Rumbaoa III (Angadanan).

"I am ready to sue them in court," Padaca told the bureau from the United States where she is on a three-week study tour. "When I say something, I mean it."

Dy, president of the Isabela Mayors' League, said he sees no problem for a possible legal battle with Padaca.

"There is no problem about that. We will answer her charges before the court. We are in good faith. For us to fulfill it, the money is deposited in a trust fund," he said.

But Padaca said she was not allowing again of the provincial government, a move "has an right to impose conditions when the money should go."

"Somehow in the time down it say that they can put the money first in a trust fund," she said.

Dy said the uncollected amount of the affected mayors was that the real property tax remittances were supposedly to be brought back to them in the form of infrastructure projects and social programs.

"But we are nothing of her projects from before," he said. "But you denied by Padaca. "You can ask the barangay captains," she said. "I have given a lot of projects, especially farm-to-market roads and multipurpose pavements. The problem I have given to the mayor, including those in the six towns, have amounted to 400 million."

Dy said mayors who used the unremitted taxes for other programs are liable. But he said he believed the mayors did not use the money for other purposes.

Padaca should have not waited for almost two years to file charges against us. She should have done it immediately. We are ready," he said.

But Padaca said the "past [the mayors] are enough time to respond to all the allegations they offer outstanding."

"The provincial treasurer has repeatedly gave to our (them) personnel to remind them of their obligation to remit the provincial share of the real property taxes [due to us]."

Dy attended Padaca for not allotting money from the tax remittances for payments of teachers' honoraria, the provincial government, and the non-collection of the barangay share.

Padaca blamed the mayors for the delayed payments of salaries of teachers.

"For the teachers' had repeatedly gone to the treasurer to appeal but all their pleas fell on deaf ears. Since I understand the plight of these poor teachers, I caused the payment of their salaries even though I was not receiving the provincial share of the taxes," she said.

So is the planned industrial fair of Isabela, Dy said: "There is nothing wrong in her plan to be endorsed. *Melvin Gascon and Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

PADACA

Foreign funds overshadow Marcos money in land reform

By Cristina Arzadon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LAOAG CITY—THE MARCOS money intended for agrarian reform projects in this so-called Marcos County has been overshadowed by foreign funds that the Department of Agrarian Reform has earmarked to support land reform beneficiaries.

Milton Sacris, DAR provincial chief, said the biggest slice of land reform for the land reform program came from the $60M World Bank's Community Empowerment for Rural Development Project (CERDP) since 1998.

The irony of it is that Marcos' money comes in trickles while we get the bulk of funds from foreign sources," said Sacris, who is also provincial project director of the PEP's agrarian reform community development project (ARCDP).

Ilocos Norte is one of 15 provinces in the country whose ARC's benefit from the $60-million WB development financing program.

The six-year program is part of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization's commitment to make agriculture-based economies in Third World countries equally viable as their industrialized counterparts.

Sacris said more than P800 million in WB-assisted projects has been completed in 12 towns—Bacnotan, Marcos, Bacarra, Pasuquin, Pagudpud, Sarrat, Dingalan, Pinili, Dingras, Currimao, Banguad and Nueva Era. The beneficiaries are classified from fourth-class to sixth-class municipalities.

In Aparri, the WB-assisted implementing the second phase of its anti-poverty program.

Pascua said the Japan Bank for International Cooperation has pumped in some P76 million to complement the DAR's development assistance program. Projects funded by JBIC were completed separately from 1999 to 2004.

In addition, projects funded by the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program from 1997 to 2003 only reached P35 million, Pascua said.

The money recovered from Marcos' alleged ill-gotten wealth is principally funding the CARP.

"We could not keep track of how much Marcos money is really used for the CARP because DAR is only one of the GOP-implementing agencies," Pascua said, adding that the amount be cited annually for the DBM.

Other government agencies like the Department of Public Works and Highways, Department of Agriculture, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and the Department of Labor and Employment, which are part of the CARP implementing team, also receive funds from the Marcos wealth.

Pascua said the agrarian reform program was in danger of being closed down because the law implementing the program terminated in end-in 2008.

Int'l experts say RP becoming complacent about AIDS, HIV

MANILA—MORE THAN 600 have been logging the headlines for years now that people forget about a pandemic sweeping across nations.

Philip-Ole Chong, United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) East Asia and Pacific regional adviser for HIV/AIDS, said facts bared the need HIV away disease but HIV had a more enduring effect on people.

"Hind the is economic but the virus is indirect to direct more. HIV because of its nature, is more enduring. It has an asymptomatic period from seroconvertight years," she said.

Unicef just concluded a regional conference on renewed HIV/AIDS response in the region.

Complacency about AIDS caused the Philippines to deny a budget for the national AIDS program, the UN program on HIV/AIDS said.

The Department of Health's annual budget for AIDS since 2000 has been almost P10 million, the same money infused in 1993 when the country began its AIDS program.

In budget in the end-1990s rose to P85 million and has gone down since.

On the other hand, the DOH budget for its bird flu preparedness is P1018 million.

"HIV prevention requires ongoing reinforcement and adaptation in changing needs and risk behaviors. Unfortunately, there are signs that some countries that have scaled major epidemics are reducing official support for their national AIDS responses, particularly prevention programming," the UNAIDS report said.

Chong said the Philippines would have a comparatively lower and waning program for AIDS. "Ninety percent of those tested positive for HIV do not know that they have it until they were tested," he said.

The case of infection in the Philippines is still low and slow, unlike, Chong said, is "simmering."

"There are not too facts but not as many as in the other countries in the region. There is also the issue of gender. The prevalence rate is much not for again, and maybe it figures in a factor, too," she said.

The DOH said 11,268 HIV positive people, aged 15 to 49, were living in the country. About 86 percent of HIV-positive people were reported to the country, the report said. *Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

A POSTER boy, or girl, for the fight against AIDS and HIV, take the stage in Baguio City to discuss the threat of HIV and the Philippine government's seeming complacency in dealing with it.

Congress urged to pass new law penalizing irresponsible parents

TWO GIRLS enjoy their stay under the Pilatores Bridge in Ilagan, Isabela, during a break from household chores.

"IF THEY CANNOT RAISE THEIR children well, put them behind bars!"

This was the appeal made by a professor of the University of the Philippines' Population Institute (UPPI) in regulations to pass House Bill No. 4110 providing penalties for irresponsible parents who could not provide the basic needs and rights of their children.

"Basically, children's rights are to have a good life and a better future. If their parents could not give that to them and (they) end up at the country's problem when they grow up, then let's impose sanctions," Dr. Zelda Zablan, chair of the Population Health Advocacy Network of the UPPI, told the lawmakers.

Zablan reiterated that the country's population growth rate had remained "on the uptrend" and had not even come close to the administration's target.

Zablan's group is calling for increased use of contraceptives, such as condoms, pills and intrauterine devices, for women to have valid figures, and for men to have vasectomy.

The Catholic Church is against the bill, saying it suggests access to artificial methods of population management.

"What is controversial with the bill? If they don't like to prevent pregnancy, it will only lead to abortion. It is the right of every child to be born and given a responsible life. Irresponsible pregnancy will only lead to abortion," Zablan said.

Dennis Slocum, a community development specialist of a World Bank-funded project in Central Mindanao, supported Zablan's appeal. "It's better to prevent pregnancy rather (than) abortions," Dimson said.

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles told Zablan's group that congressmen would fast-track deliberations on HB 4110.

"It's controversial. We will see to it that it will be balanced. We want to discuss it publicly so that the people can vote very diligently," Nograles said. —Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao desk

RAIN GEAR
Diarsa's traditional costumes are suited for the changing weather. These women carry umbrellas just in time as kid farewell to the brief summer.

ARMM teachers complain of delayed salaries

COTABATO CITY—DESPITE GOV. Lisdey Pott Uy Ampatuan's order for the Department of Education to pay salaries on time, public school teachers continue to complain of delayed wage releases.

An elementary teacher in Sultan Kudarat, who asked not to be identified, said she and hundreds of other teachers had yet to receive their pay for April.

She also complained of the tedious process of collecting their salaries. "I can't understand why with the advent of technology in giving out salaries, we are asked to personally claim our meager and hard-earned money from (regional) offices," she said.

Samson Gogo, ARMM spokesperson, clarified that the "perennial 'old-fashioned'" of salaries was temporary. "Once they claim their pay and the (regional) knows they were the ones receiving their pay in the past, the process will be changed," Gogo said.

"Unlike before, school principals and budget officers could claim the salaries of their teachers but the money ended up in the wrong persons or nonexisting teachers and employees," he said.

Speaking to (regional) officials on Monday, Ampatuan reiterated an earlier directive to ensure that salaries and benefits of ARMM workers were paid on time and their premiums to the Government Service Insurance System and contributions to other insurance companies were properly remitted.

He warned education officials defying his order of disciplinary and administrative sanctions.

High school teachers, according to the complaining elementary teacher from Sultan Kudarat, have no problem getting their pay.

"I don't know why for us (elementary teachers), it is different," she said, adding that a lot of teachers preferred to wait in silence for fear of repercussions if they go public.

Gogo said the complaint was being looked into. He urged the teachers to go direct to the (regional) office to air their grievances.

Upon assuming office in October last year, Ampatuan created a special task force that conducted an inventory of all its teaching and nonteaching personnel, including all assets and pieces of property that included school buildings, furniture and other fixtures of the department.

The task force found that a huge amount of teachers' salaries actually went to "ghost" teachers or employees of the department. —Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Get all Cha-cha info, Church tells voters

DAGUPAN CITY—ATTEND FORUMS, LISTEN, read and get as much information as you can.

This was the advice of church and local government leaders to residents here on the proposed Constitutional changes which they claimed would inevitably come, "whether we like it or not."

"I believe the Charter change is our destination, but there is no express train towards it. It cannot be rushed nor manipulated. We must do it closely, securely, and surely need others good to the political agenda of those who are in power," Bishop Benjamin Lin said during a forum on Cha-cha change on Thursday.

The forum was sponsored by the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV), Dagupan's Diocesan Archdiocese and the city government.

Ambassador to the Holy See Henrietta de Villa, PPCRV chair, said the forum was conducted to find out the sentiment of knowledge of the people on the proposed changes to the 1987 Constitution and to clear issues surrounding the proposals.

Cardo Ilagan, Jonas Grigelo Bonilla, who discussed the advantages and disadvantages of the proposed changes, said that "since the time comes to vote (on the proposals), everybody should be prepared to make a stand."

Lin said, "I accept always (as) I would stand to the (obligation of the law that I am knowledgeable enough to know that the Constitution is the most fundamental law of the land. It is the manifestation of nothing less than the collective will of the Filipino people (and), therefore, it is only the Filipino people who are empowered to create the changes they want in our Constitution." —Yolanda Isorla, Aurora, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Mining firm says probe body erred in tax rates

THE COMMISSION THAT INVESTIGATED TWO mine spills in Itogon-Suyoc, Mines went in the way it computed Lafayette Philippines Inc.'s (LPI) production figures to arrive at a conclusion that the firm did not pay proper taxes.

In a statement answering the charges made by the Itogon Commission, LPI said the error emanated from the commission's failure to understand the mining and milling process.

"If only the commission had asked us to explain, they could have spared us the unsavory suspicion of fiscal irresponsibility and, therefore, the embarrassment of being summoned for a report that is biased, flawed, unscientific, and, irresponsible," LPI said in a statement.

"The simplest way to explain this," it said, "is that bottom line, we paid the taxes based on production figures the commission said it should be based on. For another way, we did not evade tax payments because we paid the amount the commission said we should pay."

The company said ore production was 70,000 metric tons in April-June 2005 to build up inventory for a July milling operation. Production from July to October reached 67,000 MT.

Days of illegal fish pens in Laguna Lake numbered

ENVIRONMENT SECRETARY Angelo Reyes gave illegal fish pen operators in the Laguna Lake and seven other lakes in the province three months to demolish their structures or face penalties.

Reyes, in a statement, said he and Gabriele Yuzon, general manager of the Laguna Lake Development Authority, agreed to remove all illegal fish pens to rehabilitate the lake to save it from further destruction.

The LLDA board of directors has approved the proposal.

Reyes said the government would allow the owners of the illegal fish pens, who include individuals, cooperatives, associations and corporations, to harvest their produce in three months, after which they would be compelled to demolish their cages.

BAMBOO palm fence off fish pens in the Laguna Lake in Cardona, Rizal. The lake was declared polluted recently, serving as Metro Manila's septic tank. ANA ROMERO

If they fail to do so, the DENR would oversee the demolition of the structures and coordinate the materials, aside from imposing administrative and criminal sanctions against the fish cage operators.

Illegal fish cage structures are those constructed outside the designated fish cage or fish pen belts, or were built without an operation permit from the LLDA, Reyes said.

In a dialogue with the fish pen operators recently, Reyes announced that the department would reactivate the illegal fish cage committee to conserve the required carrying capacity of the lakes.

In a later meeting, the LLDA board approved a plan for the revival of the lakes submitted by the DENR.

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MAGALONA

Pilita, Francis M complete trio of RP 'Idol' judges

By Boyet Sun Diego jr.

WHEN IT COMES TO "Philippine Idol," three is definitely not a crowd.

Asia's Queen of Song Pilita Corrales and rapper-TV host Francis Magalona join award-winning composer Ryan Cayabyab as the judges of "Philippine Idol."

The final lineup of judges was confirmed by Perci Intalan, ABC-5's head of Creative and Entertainment Production. The local version of the world famous "American Idol" reality-talent search begins airing on ABC-5 in July.

"It was only recently that we got to finalize the participation of all three judges," Intalan said. "They've met and they bit it off immediately."

Intalan said that the network put the three together in workshops that allowed them to interact with each other and "trial" contestants.

"It's been came up with every statement," Intalan described the workshops. "Mr. Corrales was mouthing off one punchline after another. Sometimes she didn't have to say anything; her facial expression more than sufficed. Mr. Magalona's background as a rapper and record producer also proved crucial. Lastly, Mr. Cayabyab could be the solid coach among the three. He could surprise the viewers with his quick quips."

While Cayabyab was handpicked for the part, Corrales and Magalona gamely auditioned and their screen tests were aired on "Idol" producer FremantleMedia, based in the United Kingdom.

British TV executive Sheldon Bailey, a FremantleMedia supervising producer who is scheduled on "Philippine Idol," told inquirer.net in an interview last April: "We give specific instructions to our headhunters not to look for a Simon Cowell."

Cowell is the notoriously nasty judge on the original UK show "Pop Idol" and its United States version, "American Idol."

This was confirmed by Cayabyab in an interview conducted in March: "The producers encourage us to be ourselves. To be as Filipino as we are."

Intalan concurred: "From our shows it is evident that we didn't follow the Al template. We didn't look for a Gretell, a Hindo Akkil or a Randy Jackson. We chose the three Filipino judges for who they are. We are very confident in our choices because we are certain that they'll pick contestants that deserve hope through."

Bailey pointed out: "More than anything else, we want judges who are passionate about music and who show genuine concern for the contestants."

Corrales, in an earlier interview, announced that she was trying to play to active part in discovering new talents.

"To succeed, young artists should love what they are doing," she said. "They should be professional."

A plus METRO
Editor Ester G. Dipasupil
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'Criminal intent' seen

Filing of murder charges vs 10 cops in Ortigas shoot-out recommended

By Norman Bordadora

THE COMMISSION ON Human Rights yesterday recommended the filing of multiple murder charges against the 10 policemen involved in the Ortigas drive-out vehicle hit three alleged car thieves dead last November.

In a 36-page resolution, the CHR en banc said it found probable cause that there was "arbitrary deprivation of life" when the suspects—Asimo Co Uniong, Francis Xavier Manzano, and Bryan Anthony Dela—were shot by operatives of the Mutya Management Group.

"[The] anti-carnapping operation implemented by the police operatives on that evening of Nov. 7, 2005 was belligerent, premeditated, and murderous. Therefore, the killing of the victims by the said state agents qualifies the latter's criminal act as a case of multiple murder," the CHR said.

Found liable for violation for human rights were Senior Inspectors Raimel Maranion, Mario Gerdan, Samson Del Rosario, Police Officers 3 Lloyd Cruz, Rodolfo Ramos Jr., Police Officers 2 Dexter Pareja, Jesse Remata, Senior Policeman, and Police Officers 1 Wenceslao Rey Lopez and Joel Dela Llanera.

The CHR said the probe suffered by Belmonte, who was wounded in the alleged shoot-out with the three suspects, may have been "self-inflicted and probably accidental."

Belmonte's wound was part of the evidence presented by the police that the Nov. 7 incident was a shoot-out and not a rub-out as alleged by the suspects' relatives.

Supt. Uriel Dee, TMG chief, meanwhile, maintained that the operation was legitimate and that the suspects were not thieves.

"If the CHR found probable cause, then it means a case will still have to be filed in court. Our men would still have time to defend themselves. But we maintain that the operation was legitimate, and those killed were carjack-

FAMILIES of the slain suspects listen to 36-page resolution of the Commission on Human Rights that carried a recommendation. MARK LOPEZ

ers," he said.

The CHR, en banc said Senior Inspector Maranion showed that when the suspects were flagged down by the "link force Limbos operation, they stopped their car immediately but were met with gunfire.

The police, added the commission, had "criminal intent".

It noted that the actions of the police were not in accord with the Philippine National Police's rules of engagement as the agents did not make any attempt to bring the mortally wounded victims to the nearest hospital.

"Instead, they willfully and deliberately ensured the death of the victims with the use of excessive and/or lethal force as borne by the second round of gun shots counted, that the suspects were employed in a security and intelligence consultancy as the MPP Office of the Provost Marshal General.

Carpeso said this was confirmed by the 305th Air Intelligence and Security Group of the Philippine Air Force.

The NBI official identified some of the complainants against Nave as retired Lt. Col. Valentin Dimzon, an employee of the aviation Safety Division of the Air Transportation Office, and his officemates Hector Calcan and John Ong.

The officer-head sought the CSC's assistance after the suspect allegedly duped them of more than P136,000 in December 2005.

Investigation showed that Nave, who claimed he had connections at the Land Transportation Office and Bureau of Customs, convinced the victims to buy Mitsubishi Pajeros, allegedly from the Iloilo Export Processing Zone, for P800,000 each.

After receiving from the three men a down payment totaling P342,500, the suspect promised to deliver the vehicles last January.

However, when the suspect failed to keep his end of the bargain, the victims decided to get their money back.

Questionable record

Of the P342,500, Nave only returned P58,000 in the vicinity, in addition to 0EE180 which were later found to be fake, Carpeso said.

Following his arrest, Nave, who is now detained at the NBI jail, returned the P136,000 to the victims.

The three, however, said they would not drop the charges they had filed against Nave.

A background check showed that the suspect has a string of courts and illegal recruitment cases pending in Cavite and Manila.

Carpeso said they would conduct a follow-up investigation to determine how Nave was hired as an AFP consultant despite his questionable record.

What's Inside

Mandaluyong traffic rerouting reset to June 15 A10

Arts and culture fest for kids opens in Manila today A13

AFP consultant arrested for estafa

By Margaux C. Ortiz

A SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE CONSULtant of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) was arrested last week by agents of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) in connection with a string of estafa cases filed against him since 2003.

Constable Isaac, 50, was nabbed in his house at the Bonifacio Compound in Imus, Cavite, last Friday after 26 warrants of arrests the Manila Regional Trial Court had been issued against him, according to Special Investigator Isaac Carpeso Jr. of the NBI Special Action Unit.

During his arrest, NBI agents recovered an identification card showing that the suspect was employed as a security and intelligence consultant at the MPP Office of the Provost Marshal General.

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LEO Dracion (left) and Erwin Ensano: "World-class welcome for world-class Filipinos." JAY ISAIS

Makati welcomes Everest climbers with parade

By Nikko Dizon and Jocelyn R. Uy

EXPECT CONFETTI TO RAIN DOWN ON Makati Avenue on Wednesday as Makati hosts a victory parade for mountaineers Leo Dracion and Erwin "Erwan" Ensano, the first and second Filipinos to conquer Mt. Everest, the world's highest mountain.

The two are expected to return to the country at 6 p.m. today via Philippine Airlines.

"It's in the past, Makati will provide a world-class welcome for a group of world-class Filipinos," Mayor Jejomar Binay said in a statement. The parade will coincide with the culmination of the month-long celebration of Makati's 35th Foundation Day.

"Makati is a city which celebrates democratization, passion and teamwork, which are the hallmarks of the Philippine Everest Team. We are proud to host them on their arrival and to give them a welcome that is uniquely Makati," Binay added.

Dracion, Ensano, and other members of the First Philippine Mt. Everest Expedition (FPMEE) team will hold a press conference at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) upon their arrival today.

From there, the group will proceed to ABS-CBN, the team's broadcast partner, for more activities.

At 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dracion, Ensano and other members of the team, including Former Transportation Undersecretary Arturo Tolentino, will march on Ayala Avenue—from Gil Puyat Avenue to Edsa—at 2:30 p.m.

Binay encouraged Makati residents, office workers and executives in Ortigas residents from buildings during the parade.

Asked why Road Leaders, the third Filipino to reach the mountain's summit, was not included in the parade, Jony Salgado, head of the Makati public information office, said it was the FPMEE that requested for a parade. Ensano and Dracion are members of the FPMEE, while Leaders's Everest expedition was backed by television network giant GMA7.

"They called us up and said they wanted to have a confetti parade in the city," Salgado said.

Makati has played host to several victory parades for Filipinos who had brought honor to the country, including boxing champ Manny Pacquiao, film International stuntwoman Princess Leeza Dolgiaman and the Filipino delegation to last year's Southeast Asian Games.

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Shaw traffic rerouting reset

By Edson C. Tavivas Jr.

MAKING THROUGH SHAW Boulevard? We have more than two weeks to drive through your usual route.

The Mandaluyong City government announced yesterday that it has decided to postpone the implementation of its experimental traffic rerouting scheme on Shaw Boulevard to June 15 instead of June 1.

Traffic enforcers in the area, however, will be holding a "dry run" to familiarize motorists with the new routes, thus delaying City Mayor Ninfah Gonzales II told the business yesterday. Gonzales announced last week that the new traffic scheme aimed at decongesting Shaw Boulevard in time for the school opening, would take effect on Monday.

"We would more than be informative dissemination. I also want signboards not only announcing the closure of the streets, but also instructing motorists where what alternate route to take," Gonzales said.

"If we see improvements, we will make the new routes permanent," he added.

From being two-way side streets, the following routes will soon be one-way: Fernando Street from Shaw to Flag; Coldwater from Shaw to Boni Serrano Avenue; Langka from Shaw to San Jose; Mail Street from Shaw to Lee Street; Laurel Street from Shaw to Lee; Lee Street from Laurel St. to Shaw; Old Wack Wack Road from Shaw and Jos. Cruz to be changed to Shaw. From Shaw Boulevard, the left turn on Bernardo, Lista Mendez, Lee, L. Cruz, Israelite, Commerville, Tuason, Calderon, Pilar Hidalgo, Idsal and S. Laurel St. only.

No U-turns are allowed at Jamie St., and Reiner to then, also for Miguel St., which there will be no crossing at Vinzons, Guevarra, Torres, Calderon and E. Rodriguez. Motorists coming from Ortigas will be prohibited from making a U-turn at the Shaw Boulevard-Ortigas flyover, because of the narrow streets leading to the underpass by. "We have to use at least 10 buses to watch the five streets," Pineda told the business yesterday. Only one bus has to stay the incident, but two still. Also hired to identify the victim. The victim, Pineda added, suffered minor lacerations.

Jocelyn R. Uy

Female prosecutor a Jekyll and Hyde type

THERE MUST BE SOMETHING wrong with Cris woman.

For referring to Prosecutor Olivia Sol—who had a gross conference and reunited all the things she had said in a signed and been affidavit detailing supposed sexual exploits she had with some Department of Justice officials.

Sol first sought the help of a friend and colleague, Tony Calvento, in arranging Prosecuting Attorney Alexander Suarez of sexually harassing her. Calvento said Sol was allegedly having an affair of the time.

I saw Sun at the office of the radio program, "Tinulyan Pinas sa Lahat" hosted by Junior Secretary Raul Gonzalez. Gonzalez and I have programs in dzBB.

Sun was special assistant to Gonzalez in his radio program, which he hosts with Calvento.

Sun showed me a copy of her affidavit linking top DOJ officials and alleged sexual activities happening inside their offices.

I had no sound thoughts about believing Sun since she's a government prosecutor. She even said that after a senior prosecutor had sex with her, he praised her as to either prosecution. She said she agreed to have sex with them so she would get promoted.

I wrote about her complaint and that of another female prosecutor that she said was also victim of "sex for promotion" scheme in this column (see April 11 column). I didn't mention the names of the male prosecutors, only their jumbled initials, as I wanted to play safe. It now turns out I was right about playing safe: Sun has made a 180 degree turn. She accused Calvento, her now-ex-boyfriend, of having forced her to make those confessions damaging to her as well as to her DOJ superiors. I'm now sure she has a split personality, a Dr Jekyll and Hyde type. I suspected something was wrong with her after she accused a former justice secretary and solicitor general of snatching her and kissing her on the lips inside his office recently.

This man, a friend of mine and Calvento's, was supposed to give her legal support in her battle with a subordinate prosecutor she accused of sexually harassing her.

On the bad complaint to Calvento about the supposed snatching and kissing, Calvento had taken her to Dim mon's office. I know the man: he would never do that to a prospective client, much more to a woman who was his friend's girlfriend.

Calvento apparently realized he was having an affair with a liar and drew her out of his house. I know because Calvento told me about it days before Sun's press conference. I talked to Calvento after he broke up with Sun. He told me about the lurid details of sex that Sun supposedly told him she had with still another prosecutor. According to Calvento, she told him that, after she supposedly had sex with the prosecutor, she was also "given" to his bodyguards.

The sex act was supposed to have taken place inside a motel with a "love seat." She was supposed to have been tied to the love seat while the guards took turns molesting her. Was she telling another fictitious story?

If Sun's confessions, which she recanted later, came out in the newspapers, the story would be X-rated.

And it would bring shame and scandal to the Department of Justice, even if the story were fiction.

Ronnie Tejido

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

MetroBriefs

Children's festival

SOME 300 children from all over the country will gather in Manila to attend a three-day arts and cultural festival which will highlight their rights and responsibilities. The festival, with the theme, "Wow Ako 7: Batas Karapatan's Bunga sa Buhay at Kultura Bahad," will kick off today with a parade to Intramuros with participants dressed in their native costumes. The event streams the importance of participation as a means to ensure full and enabling the public about the pressing issues faced by Filipino children today," said Maina Gaviola of Plan Philippines, International child-centered organization that organized the three-day festival aimed at showcasing children's talents in different art forms such as dance, music and visual arts with themes on their rights represented in rural and economic. The festival will be held until June 1. Rard Antiat

Fire in Las Piñas

FIRE razed Barangay Almeda Compound in Las Piñas City before dawn yesterday, razing 120 houses and leaving P60,000 worth of damage. Senior Insp. Robert Fuzo said the blaze might have been triggered by an unattended candle since the houses on San Jose Street. Says Fernandez, had been without electricity for several hours before the incident after 1 a.m. yesterday. No. operating licenses had trouble putting out the fire, which reached the third alarm, because of the narrow streets leading to the community. No injuries are known so far, but no search for the occupants. Pineda told the business yesterday. Only one was hurt during the incident, but two still. Also hired to identify the victim. The victim, Pineda added, suffered minor lacerations.

Jocelyn R. Uy

Ban on short skirts

THE METROPOLITAN Capital Region Police Office has issued a memorandum ordering policewomen to wear their proper uniform. The reminder came after some officials of the Philippine National Police and the National Police Commission observed that some policewomen in the Metropolitan Manila area have started wearing unauthorized short skirts while performing their duties. Other's were wearing unauthorized shoes while some had long hair which was "not proper in arranged." The memorandum is mandatory pursuant to that the high officer shall be dressed for the "cold-blooded" while their had shouldered made the order. Those spotting long hair should bring it up due to "consequence should not start" done correct's ribbons are also prohibited. Lastly, policewomen should refrain from wearing dangling earrings.

Edson C. Tavivas Jr.

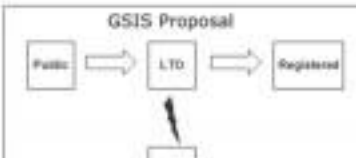
Why wait two days?

When you can have your vehicle registered in one hour.

The Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) proposes to become the official Compulsory Third Party Liability (CTPL) insurer of ALL motor vehicles in the country.

The benefits of a GSIS Certificate of Cover (COC)

- ✓ Convenience
- ✓ Electronic processing, no manual intervention
- ✓ 100% Accuracy and consistency with LTO requirements
- ✓ 0% Opportunity for Corruption
- ✓ 100% Guaranteed Tax Remittance

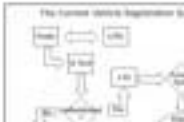


The GSIS proposal is as easy as 1, 2, 3.

One, vehicle owners go to LTO.
Two, LTO includes the COC in the registration fees.
Three, the vehicle is registered.

The GSIS advantage

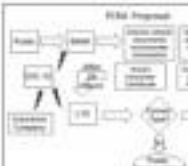
- ✓ Faster registration
- ✓ 24-hour Call Center to handle claim reports and requests for assistance
- ✓ No need to produce registration papers
- ✓ No need to present proof of insurance (because the COC is already in the LTO system)



The present registration process does not check whether CTPL is valid. Many thieves take advantage of this by selling fake COCs.

- Due to the proliferation of fake COCs, many motorists are unable to get their P55,000 claims for cases of accidents.

- It is estimated that 44.41% of vehicles ply the roads using fake COCs, putting the motoring and commuting public at risk.



Instead of simplifying it, the proposal of private insurers (PIRAC, consolidated the entire vehicle registration process.

- Vehicle owners must first go to authorized banks to pay for their insurance.

- Applicants appear for 24 hours before getting their COCs. Only then can they start registering their vehicles.

- The whole PIRA process means you have to wait for two days to register your vehicles, if you're lucky.

Public protection is a government concern.
Support the GSIS CTPL program.

Government Service Insurance System
GSIS - Kami Kasi, Kami Kalian Mauasahan

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- Easy to Operate & Clean

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- Heat Resistant, Easy Cool Housing
- Overheat Protection
- External Water Level Indicator

BEFORE: P599
P539

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- Table Top
- With Compressor
- Stainless Steel Tank & Tube
- Low Noise Design
- Anti-Bacterial Design

BEFORE: P4,677
P3,999

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- Concealed Heating Coil
- Automatic Thermal Switch Off
- Overheat Protection
- Cordless Detachable Unit

BEFORE: P399
P349

Coffee Maker
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- Transparent Water Gage
- Non-Drip Valve
- Auto Hot Plate to keep coffee warm

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P579

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- High Temperature Resistance
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- Double Pyrotherm
- Slot-in Bread Holder
- Energy Saving Feature

BEFORE: P699
P599

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- Transparent Lid
- Non-Stick Coating
- Cool Handle

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P759

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- 1.8 Liter Capacity
- with Food Steamer
- Enamel Finished

BEFORE: P749
P679

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- 50 Cups Capacity
- Non-Stick Coating
- Aluminum
- With Measuring Cups and Rice Paddle

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P2,399

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- Concealed
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- Variable Temperature
- suitable for all types of material

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- Pilot Light

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Wimpex Desktop 16" worth P599

1-Tub Washing Machine
- 6.8 Kgs. Capacity
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- Semi-Automatic

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P2,999

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- Full Stainless/Net Front Door
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- Energy Saving

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- Powerful suction
- Dust bag saver cord
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- 1200 Watts Motor
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- Telescopic Tube for Variable Cleaning Height
- Aluminum Extension Tube
- Cleaning Brush

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P2,149

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The WORLD

Gilda Lorente B. Gatus

German Pope visits Auschwitz

POPE Benedict XVI signs a book after prayers in front of the death wall in the courtyard of block 11 of the Camp Auschwitz May 28 in Oswiecim. AFP

OSWIECIM, POLAND—POPE BENEDICT XVI PRAYED at the Auschwitz concentration camp Sunday and denounced the mass murder of Europe's Jews by his native country's World War II rulers, saying it was hard for "a pope from Germany" even to speak of the Holocaust.

"To speak in this place of horror, in this place where unprecedented mass crimes committed against God and man, is almost impossible—and it is particularly difficult and troubling for a Christian, for a pope from Germany," he said.

"In a place like this, words fail, in the end there can be only a dismal silence," Benedict said in Italian, "a silence which itself is a heartfelt cry to God: Why Lord, did you remain silent?"

Benedict said that just as his predecessor, John Paul II, had visited "this dreadful place" as a boy in 1979, he came as "a son of the German people." He nearly uttered his mother language, however, speaking in Italian and using German for just one short prayer.

"The rulers of the Third Reich wanted to crush the entire Jewish people, to cancel it from the register of the peoples of the earth," he said, standing near the demolished crematoriums where the Nazis burned the bodies of their victims.

"In the destroying fervor with the Shoah, they ruthlessly erased every spiritual support of the Christian faith and replaced it with a faith of their own invention."

Shoah is the Hebrew term for the killing of six million Jews by the Nazis during World War II.

At many as 1.5 million people, most of them Jews, died at Auschwitz and Birkenau, neighboring camps built by the German occupiers near the Polish town of Oswiecim. Others who died there included Poles, Gypsies, members of nazi, Roma, or Gypsies, and political opponents of the Nazis. AP

Uribe, US ally, wins 2nd term in Colombia

BOGOTA—COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT ALVARO Uribe, a staunch US ally, Sunday won a second term by a landslide he said he would celebrate by the tomb of his father, killed by the leftist insurgents he has pledged to defeat.

"With the heroism of our soldiers, we will move forward to have a more secure Colombia," said Uribe, who has stamped out military operations against armed groups since he came to office in 2002.

Uribe, a US- and British-educated lawyer, won reelection with 62 percent of the vote and a 40-point lead over his closest rival, leftist Sen. Carlos Gaviria.

His reelection backs the political trend in a region dominated by leftist leaders whose relationship with Washington is often lukewarm.

URIBE: Tough work ahead. AP

Uribe is credited with cooperating trade ones controlled by bandits or insurgents, restoring order in the countryside, offering cive against leftist rebels, and reaching a pact that demobilized right-wing paramilitary fighters.

Democratic security has started to regain the Marxists that terrorists had taken away," he told supporters who gathered at a Bogota hotel after Sunday's victory.

An austere, yoga-practicing workaholic, Uribe said he would continue his crackdown against violence and drug trafficking in the South American country that ranks as the region's most violent, and the world's top producer of cocaine. AFP

BBC: 1,000 UK troops have deserted Iraq war

LONDON—AT LEAST 1,000 troops have deserted Britain's armed forces since the US-led war was launched in Iraq three years ago, the BBC reported Sunday.

Britain's defense ministry said however it knew of only "a handful of deserters since 1945."

During 2005 alone, 377 people deserted and are still missing, the British Broadcasting Corp. said on its website, adding that in the last year another 180 arose the war.

Without explaining how it arrived at the figures, it said some 900 deserters have evaded capture since the Iraq war started in March 2003.

Lawmaker John McDonnell told parliament on Monday that the "number of absentees has trebled since the invasion of Iraq" as he registered opposition to a government bill to criminalize desertion in a treatment of life injuries.

McDonnell, who is among a leftwing group within the governing Labor party, said Sunday that the minister of defense's denial "flies in the face of all the other evidence and the experience of soldiers on the ground."

A BRITISH soldier carrying an arrest in Basra May 28. AFP

The BBC cited Europe-wide reporters troops or counterpartial as saying that growing numbers of soldiers are seeking advice from those about avoiding service in Iraq, even if they want to stop short of deserting.

Some 110 British troops have died in Iraq. Some 7,000 British servicemen and women are currently deployed in southern Iraq and around 1,600 are due to be withdrawn later of the Royal Air Force and soldiers personnel are based. AFP

WORLDBRIEFS

Crisis talks in Timor in face of chaos

DILI—East Timor's divided government held crisis talks on Monday following days of chaos that have pushed the nation close to violence, as despite declarations a state of emergency would end, fighter jet overflights patrolled the violence-scarred capital, angry crowds demanded the resignation of Prime Minister Mari Alkatiri, who has been widely criticized over the country's rapid descent into anarchy. Efforts, rioters have clashed in the streets using machetes to knives and arrows, burning down houses and businesses and causing more than 20,000 people to flee their homes and make shift camps. Hundreds of protesters gathered outside the presidential palace as Alkatiri held talks inside with President Xanana Gusmao, a folk hero among East Timorese after spearheading the resistance movement against Indonesian occupation. "Alkatiri has to go!" the crowd chanted. Rev Filomeno Fernandes of protestors shouted outside the presidential palace. Fr Lilliano Dias, principal of Dili's St. Joseph's College, said East Timor's people were anticipating major changes from the meeting. "People are waiting for the president to take strong action," he said. "Alkatiri has not been able to rule properly. There's been a power vacuum and the people have taken advantage of the situation to attack the people." AFP

Pentagon seeking non-nuke sub missile

NEW YORK—The Pentagon is pressing Congress to approve the development of a new weapon that would enable the United States to carry out non-nuclear attacks anywhere against imminent threats within an hour. The New York Times reported in its Monday edition. Citing unnamed military officials, the newspaper said the proposal has set off a complex debate about whether this program (to strengthening the military's conventional capacity could increase the risks of accidental or miscalculated nuclear war. The Pentagon plans to modify a submarine version of the submarine-launched Trident II missile that could be used to attack terrorist camps, enemy missile sites, suspected caches of biological, chemical or nuclear weapons, and other potentially urgent threats, the report said. If tested, it would be the only non-nuclear weapon designed for rapid strikes against targets that could be destroyed in minutes, giving the president options when considering a preemptive attack, the Times pointed out. Gen. James Cartwright, head of the US Strategic Command, said the system would enhance the Pentagon's ability to "unwind conventionally", and are likely while limiting the "collateral damage." See paper rejection. AFP

SPORTS
Editor Teddyboy S. Melendres

■ Sparks, Portmasters seek 2nd wins /A22
■ Chinese test struggling RP spikers today /A22
■ Bonds grabs 2nd over Ruth in MLB homer derby /A23
■ Mavs eclipse Suns for 3-1 series lead /A23
■ Monaco GP first for Alonso /A23
■ French Open: Sharapova eludes axe /A23

Rout of Iceland caps RP twin kill

By Roy Luarca

TURIN, ITALY—THE PHILIPPINES TURNED hot and melted Iceland in the 37th Chess Olympiad Sunday.

Grinding a tipple, the Filipino steamed the all-grandmaster lowriders, 3.5-0.5, in the seventh round, to barge into contention halfway through the biennial event at the Olympic Village here.

Grandmasters Mark Paragua, GM Rogelio Antonio Jr. and GM Mario Oliver Dimakiling sent their mates to the Philippines pedaled to total to 10 points and jumped to a share of 14th place with feisted 8 opponents China, second-ranked India, Bulgaria, Belarus and Greece.

The Filipinos made it a double-celebrations by dumping the 30th-seeded Finland squad, 3.5-0.5.

Woman National Master Catherine Perena and upcoming Shelly Cua notched the full point against WIM Yuko Rasmussen and Lenes Jarvale on boards 2 and 3 while NWM-elect Sherrie Joy Lendhe split the point with WIM Nina Rasmussen on board 3.

Continuing their roller-coaster drive, the fifth-ranked Filipinos improved to 11.5 points and arranged a showdown with the 33th-seeded Iceland, who bowed to the Poles, 2-1, in Round 7.

"The players got pumped up by the presence of National Chess Federation of the Philippines president Rep. Prospero "Butch" Pichay, and senate skipper Sammy Fortuna. "He challenged them to Mandaluyong!"

ANTONIO: Stunning upset

PARAGUA: In just 27 moves

It surely became a reality as reigning national champion Darwin Laylo was on the verge of victory against GM Struck Dandelion on board 2, but missed the winning move and settled for a draw on board 3.

Debby Sandiling rebite, Paragua secured the stalemate after he forced GM Hilbe Barroso Stefansson in just 27 moves of a Spanish Game.

Antonio followed suit by trouncing former world championship challenger Johannl Sigurjonsson in 41 moves of a Nimzo-Indian Defense.

The 26-year-old Dimakiling completed the rout by humbling GM Thrainn Thorhallsson 47 moves of a Queen's Pawn Opening.

Pichay, who arrived Sunday afternoon and opted to stay with the Philippine delegation at the Olympic Village, again ordered the Filipino squad to attack for victories in Round 8 on Monday.

Hunted by the results, Filipino and women's team captain Grace Cotoria decided to field the same players against the Chinese, who will parade three super-GMs, said the boniface.

Paragua (Elo 2637) faces Ye Jiangchi (2640), Antonio meets Zhang Zhong (2644), Dindo Jarvelo (Zhang Pengxiang (2622) and Dimakiling, who fears zero favour, tackles Wang Yue (2598).

In their last Olympiad rendezvous in the 2004 Istanbul Olympiad, the Philippines edged China, 2.5-1.5, courtesy of IM Middleton Nunn, who drained former Asian junior champion Wu Shuqin.

The 22-year-old Paragua said he had beaten the man in 1998 in the world rapid tourney but has yet to meet the Chinese in standard play.

With 22 points, Armenia remained top favorite Russia in men's play although the Russians continued to pace the women's side with 17.5 points, a point ahead of Ukraine.

STANDINGS AFTER 7 ROUNDS

MEN
1½—Armenia, 20—Russia; 18½—Cuba, Ukraine, Georgia, Czech Republic; 18—Netherlands, United States, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, France; 16½—China, Bulgaria, Belarus, Greece, India, Philippines

WOMEN
17½—Russia; 16½—Ukraine; 16—Cuba, Netherlands, Armenia; 15½—Switzerland, Poland, Israel, Argentina, Serbia & Montenegro, Greece, Spain, Georgia; 15—India, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Germany, Turkey, Mongolia; 14½—Denmark, Croatia, Indonesia, Moldova, Iran, Philippines

BY BO (until pairings): Men—n, China, Women—n, Iran

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PACQUIAO

Pacquiao-Larios tango

By Hermie Rivera

LESS THAN A MONTH INTO THE FIGHT, Manny Pacquiao and Oscar Larios have started heating up their quarantine as they stepped up work for their July 2 dogfight at the Araneta Coliseum.

Pacquiao (the early bet has installed by the bookmakers as a heavy favorite owing to his ability to work across a lot of what he sees as in the ring amateur he fights.

But Larios himself is not anyway out.

While we go into the so-called controls, on several aspects of the promotion such as ticket or earlier functions and the like remain a guarded secret while inquiring minds want to know who is the real promoter of this mano-a-mano.

Pacquiao himself really had a hand in the promo since Manny Pelaez and Gary Olsen were removed from the scene.

COMMENTARY

On Friend between promoters and managers (1) in general, it is unlawful for (2) a promoter to have a direct or indirect financial interest in the management of both (3) a manager of a boxer subject to both direct financial interest in the promotion of a boxer (4) to be employed by or receive compensation or other benefits from a promoter, except for amounts received as reimbursement for actual expenses incurred in connection with the management of a boxer.

PACQUIAO-LARIOS A23

HAIR LOSS:
Restore Your Hair at Svenson!
"My friends would say that there was something wrong with my hair. They could see my scalp whenever I was under the lights in the studio. Worst of all, when I perspire, it would become shiny! Without batting an eyelash, I decided to go to Svenson. Now, my hair is so much thicker, so much better and looks healthier. No more shiny scalp for me. I've grown accustomed to Svenson since then. It's like a best friend to me!"
Maurice Arrocha
Journalist/TV Host
Svenson
Call 892-HAIR (4247)

Shell Makes New Guinness World Record
On Fuel Economy Travelling in Europe with the Taylors

John and Helen Taylor started their epic journey in London on January 17, 2006. They passed through France and Belgium and proceeded to drive through the Balkans of Serbia, their economy where they smashed generous petroleum effectiveness during their five-team team together. Their first tough challenge came when they took on the mountainous landscape of the Switzerland and were met with horrendous weather conditions brought about by the snow.

The Taylors had their first re-fuelling of the new Shell Fuel Economy gasoline in Italy and later got stuck in a terrible three-hour traffic jam in Milan. It was here that they were quite reminded of the importance of staying calm for better fuel efficiency driving. Passing through the scenic mountain ranges and the Danube plains of Austria, the Taylors then proceeded to the Czech Republic where they spent one day of travelling to accommodate 19° below zero, with snow and bitter winds arriving as they left the country on their way to Slovakia.

The team then went through Hungary and Serbia where the latter's conditions were not ideal for fuel efficiency driving primarily because of the stark contrast between the climates of the north and the vast mountains and dense forests of the south accustomed by poor conditions in some roads. In mountainous Macedonia, the Taylors drove through its deep ravines and valleys where their driving skills were yet again put to the test. The last stop in their European leg was in Greece where they had to take on steep and winding roads brought about by the diverse terrain of mountainous ranges and coastal landscapes.

Despite the fact that everything seemed to be conspiring against achieving fuel efficiency, the part of the journey found Shell and the Taylors on track to their goal of completing a new Guinness World Record, which they did on April 4, 2006. During the European leg of their great adventure, they were able to cover 1,350 kilometers in eight (8) days of driving in very extreme conditions. This ultimate road test of the new Fuel Economy Formula is testament to Shell's commitment in developing fuels that addition motorists' search for greater fuel economy.

See more of the Taylors' record-breaking journey with Shell at www.fuelchallenge.com.

NEXT

Sparks, Portmasters seek 2nd wins

THE TOYOTA OTO SPARKS AND RAPhoue Centre Portmasters try to move closer to a championship showdown when they clash for a second straight victory in their respective semifinal assignments today in the PBL Unity Cup at the Olivarez Sports Center in Parañaque.

The Sparks collide with the defending champion Sista se Shire Elasto Painters at 2 p.m. while the Portmasters square with the Montana Jewels at 4 o'clock.

"We need to improve on the transition of our offense because we're becoming very predictable," said Toyota Oto coach Louie Alas, who won the opener of the best-of-five duel with a 64-59 decision.

For scrub Jorge Gallent, consistency will be Harbour Centre's main concern following the Portmasters' near collapse after building a 16-point lead.

"We have to play smart from start to finish," noted Gallent. "I don't want what happened to us for the last time."

The Portmasters stayed through, 80-79, on backup point guard Chris Lucero, capped a game-high 21 points with a key jumper and two free throws in the final minutes.

"I have to credit Lucero for his clutch shooting," said Gallent.

The Sparks had a more balanced offensive performance to their Game 1 triumph.

Although Joe Devance didn't deliver his usual numbers, the top PBA All-star registered inlary plays as he scored six of his 12 points in the final quarter.

"I just hope our rebuild sustain the momentum we gained in our victory the last time out," added Alas.

The Elasto Painters hope to regain their firepower with only Bonjar Bartolo delivering consistently in the opening minutes of Game 1.

Shooting woes also hit the Jewels in Game 1, allowing the Portmasters to erect a 34-point cushion, 83-49, in the second quarter before Alex Compton and rookie Larry Rodriguez led Montalvo's second-half comeback.

Lacquer's departure from Century Green this conference has been providing huge offensive support to backcourt mate Jungle Boy and Lil Tornado in the playoffs.

PBA Ass Nick Reyes also stepped up in the Portmasters' victory over Montalvo, wrestling 10 points and nine rebounds off the bench. Jeannine M. Pays

ASIAN CLUB VOLLEY

Chinese test struggling RP spikers today

By Jeannine M. Pays

JUST THE SIGHT OF THE TALL CHINESE PLAYERS IS enough to make most Filipinos nervous.

So it's quite a tough task for Philippine coach Cesario Reyes to fire up his crew when it plays China in the 2006 Asian Women's Club volleyball championship at 4 p.m. today at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

STANDINGS	W	L
China	1	0
Chinese Taipei	1	0
Philippines	1	1
Thailand	1	1
Japan	1	2
Philippines	1	2
Indonesia	0	4

GAMES TODAY
(Rizal Memorial)
2 p.m. — Indonesia vs Chinese Taipei
2 p.m. — Japan vs Thailand (Reserves)
4 p.m. — China vs Philippines

"We're improving every game," said Reyes. "We have the skills, but we have to be consistent and more confident."

China will be gunning for a repeat of their slumpit crushing win last year when they swept all games in the single round-robin competition.

Rumored by the tournament's leading spiker Shang Dajun and top blocker Ding Yanan, Chinese coach Hang Baoquan has predicted that China would claim its second straight title.

"We expect to win the last game," said Baoquan. "We have plenty of advantage on the set court in comparison. But we know the Asian teams will play inclose."

The coach cabbed Filipinos, who will be playing their last match against the powerful Chinese squad in tournament, have been running to sectional spiker standouts Cherry Rose Mercanangay, Mary Joan Balse and Michelle Carolino.

CHINESE EMPER'S Liu Ching spikes over the defense put up by Asia-Philippines' Marietta Carolino (4) and Jovy Mundajar last Thursday. The Taiwanese duals the Filipinas chair third defeat in four outings. PHOTO

"Our game against the reigning champion is a big test for our players," said Reyes.

"I'm hoping they will learn something from the match."

Thailand and Kazakhstan will dispute third spot at 6 p.m., while Indonesia will tee for its first win versus struggling American Samoa at 2 p.m.

The games will be shown on Solar Sports from 1 p.m. to 12 a.m. on June 5 to 11, and on IBC 13 from 6-9 p.m. starting on June 12.

Assad stuns Macatangay in Olivarez junior tennis

UNSEEDED MAIKA ASSAD PULLED OFF a 6-0, 6-2, (10-2) upset win over fourth seed Angel Macatangay to reach the girls' 16-and-under quarterfinals in the Olivarez Age Group Tennis Championships at the Olivarez Sports Center in Parañaque City.

Assad will meet Lois Bondoc, who scored a 6-1, 6-0 victory over Hannah Serrano.

In other matches, third seed Martina Rivera downed Rebecca Silongco, 6-2, 6-0; Alexa Mendoza rallied past Danielle Ubalde, 1-6, 6-4, 10-8; Heidi Bhagat beat Heather Candelo, 6-1, 6-0; and Pat Dee Tan prevailed over Claudine Cua, 6-1, 6-3.

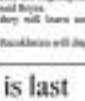
In the girls' 16-under, unseeded Liz Magpayo ousted No. 4 Joby Jocobao, 3-6, 7-5, (10-7); no-advance against Martina Rivera, 6-2, 6-2; and over Louise Gomez.

Other winners were No. 3 Dana Quizon over Janice Tamayo, 6-0, 6-2; No. 5 Martina Cuba over Elisha Bassil, 6-1, 6-0; Jane Ople, Iocelu over Danielle Hilbert, 6-0, 6-1; and Louise Logan over Heather Candelo, 6-0, 6-0.

Reading quarterfinal berths in the girls' 14-under event are Charlene Cuba, Angelica Martina Cuba, Jasmine Olivarez, Rachel Lauren, Mary Grace Sison, Ms. Rosa Quizon-Jocelu and Kath Ortiz, while the setspost in the girls' 12-under class were Abbe de Guzman, Rachel Tory, Ms. Aura Opalenia, Pia Bautista and Ana Bautista.

Elsa Punzalan

The first is last



SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

OH POOH, IT WILL TIRE YOU MAYBE ONE hour to cover 9 kilometers? Try run, maybe 9 minutes only!

That's the land, fellas.

Hour let's do some climbing.

OK, let's go to the mountains.

Let's climb Mt. Everest.

Some say Mt. Everest, the world's tallest peak, is 29,000 feet above sea level, others say 29,028, still others say 29,035.

The last one's the standard measurement.

It matters, that's 8,847.42, or a total of 8,847.42 kilometers. Round that off and it's 9 this.

Nine kilometers to, like, from Rizal Park in Rizzon down south or Balintawak up north?

Whatever, Leo Stricker, officially recorded as the first Filipino to reach the summit of Mt. Everest, took 24 days to do it from April 26 to May 17 (his part).

Ryan "Pastor" Bacon did it in 25 days (from April 14 to May 10).

Now you have an idea of how difficult a climb Mt. Everest is.

It isn't clear at how many hours, or days, it took Nasir Zaeheer to become the third Filipino to scale Mt. Everest, he reached the summit two days after Ricasio did.

But of the three, it's on record Zaeheer was the first to climb without the help of oxygen. Ricasio is, or then it is. Two weeks later, Gracion and Fausto arrived in Nepal.

Why the three did their climbing the same month, the same year, seems material. Why not Zaeheer doing it two years or two terms?

Unless there's a competition.

Zaeheer and Ricasio, Coast Guardsmen, were ABS-CBN financed.

Lacuna, 37, an IT manager from Batangas, was funded by rival TV network, GMA-7.

Coincidence?

Competition!

Ten years ago on May 24, Nasa Kanwarbaldeh of Italy recorded the fastest ascent from the base camp to 16 hours and 45 minutes.

Quite what fast to Gaudioso Ricasio do not mean a thing.

"I did not do it to race," said further. "I just exercised my plan."

Like that. Any task, for true runners, should never be a race, especially at the degree of difficulty in climbing Mt. Everest.

In blatantly difficult is the fastest climb longer they you need to reach the top and then come down alive to complete the feat. Under Everest laws, reaching the summit is just one half of the story. Descending to the foot of the mountain alive completes the story.

One such climber believed in these sealed forever in 2020 but more inside it back was found in 1998, his body frozen. It was ruled he did not make Everest because he didn't come back alive.

Now listen to this. Do you know it takes a fortune for one to even start attempting to climb Mt. Everest?

And if we go by the companions of Gracion, Ricasio and further, not a single one of them can afford the fees needed for a Mt. Everest expedition.

According to my buddy Loren Mangaoil, the Ministry of Tourism of Nepal charges a can be climber US$10,000. That's roughly P1.5 million!

Give me P1 million and I'll hop on an hour-to-or an 10-seat for a shuttle service business.

"That's not all, Sir," said Loren. "A group of 1 will be charged US$10,000, US$45,000 for 5, US$56,000 for 6, US$63,000 for 7, and so on and so forth."

The less than 5 persons were involved in each of the expeditions of Gracion, Fausto and Gardener, not to include TV crews for both networks.

Competition? Competition!

One Filipino contained Alpenjar has claimed he was the first to reach "the roof of the world."

Kate (For the above-read, date.

To do it, Alpenjar, who claimed he climbed Mt. Everest on Summit by any one except himself, must shell out US$35,000 more to get the certificate attesting to his feat.

It's that expensive.

Now if, for example, Valentin Infantino my own local legend, hosts Aboujar and produces one himself, will VS receive the same celebrity status accorded Gracion, Ricasio and Zaeheer?

Thank heard. Tallies.

From what I heard, the diploma drops at C.M. Recto Avenue have been all shot down.

* * *

Comments to mvsp@philnet.net

SPORTSWATCH

FEU spikers unscathed in Toribio Cup

FOR EXCITING ANALYSIS CLICK HERE! IS DOMINANT IN THE WINNERS' Toribio Teopaco Volleyball Cup by posting its sixth victory in a row at the expense of College of Saint Benilde in the women's division and a fourth straight sub-over 1 division match also. FEU shut St. Benilde's Scottdale in straight sets, 25-17, 30-28, 25-20. Reinforcements of the University, either Friday setter and libero Jessica Galang, who were both sidelined with injuries, were guaranteed by University of the East's Women's Center at the UE Open Line Blacktop. Galang (8) defeated National U, 25-19, 25-9, 25-19, to stay in rules secured with a 3-1 card, while Lobo Sisi Adamson at 4-0 with a 25-11, 25-16, 25-17 victory over Lyceum. 915-5-28-29, 25-15, 25-19 victory over Letran final 3 also the remaining undefeated of the Lady Lions. Meanwhile, Ateneo de Manila University's former volleyball coach and the winningest mentor in the University Athletic Association of the Philippines, for the other men's matches, all brought down San Beda College, 25-20, 25-18, 25-12, for its second win in nine matches.

80 matches in Sta. Ana derby today

SOME BIGGER CHECKERS ON TOP BUT SPECIAL 3-COCKERBY IS THE Sta. Ana Cockpit on SP Reyes Avenue, Makati City tonight. A guaranteed prize of P100,000 awaits the champion, according to hosts Boy Navarro and Gong Bongco. Leading action are derby regulars from Pasay, Manila, Muntinlupa, San Juan, Mandaluyong and Quezon City. For reservations, call Navarro at 896-0971 or Bongco at 899-0971. The Sta Ana Group 9 Cock Derby comes next on June 4. The venue's "Animal Kingdom Cock Shows" returns on Saturday, according to cult manager Bobby Chua. The total purse is P100,000 in an entry fee of P1,000.

P1.5M Religon 5-cocker gets going

MORE THAN 70 FIGHTS MAY OCCUR FOR THE 5-COCKERBY OF THE Cock Derby which starts today at the Religon Village Cockpit in Parañaque City. A cash pool of P1.5 million is at stake in the derby scheduled on May 30, June 1 and 3, sponsored by Lakwatsero Drug Inc. and Pasadena Distributors and hosted by Lakwatsero Derby Manager Dodong Dizon. For reservations, call Dizon at 0920-9008. All derby participants may also join Thursday's second round eliminations. The feature action on Saturday. For inquiries, call Religon Arena at 853-1908, 851-2251 or 867-9893.

Submission of GCAP cockfest entries up

TODAY IS THE DEADLINE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES IN THE Gallantry Cockers Association of the Philippines (GCAP) 3-Cock Derby slated to commence at the San Juan Coliseum. Main entrance in Gagalangin Complex. With GCAP president Jun Lim as derby chair, the cockfest will feature action until 5 p.m. For inquiries, call the GCAP office at 725-0393. Action begins at 1 p.m. to 11 p.m. tomorrow with some 70 fights on tap. The 2006 GCAP Cocker of the Year series will be known on June 25 after the Grand Championship 3-Cock Derby. Meanwhile, preparations are also under way for the Super Big Event 3-Cock Derby scheduled at the Araneta Coliseum on June 25 and 26.

61 entries collide in Enriquez-Velayo tilt

THE LEGENDARY FIRST LIEUTENANTS LOCK HORNS TONIGHT AS THE Makati Aristocrats tie it 4-4 in Derby Ilocano action tonight at the Cockers Coliseum. Scheduled today is the 7-cock elimination meeting SP cockfest derby who will shoot for berths in the 8-cock finals on Thursday. The derby is headed by established gamefowl breeder Ricky Enriquez and sportsman Raymond Enriquez. Among those scheduled for the fighting birds are Gerry Romero and Tommy Lagos, Tony Sipalay Jr., Cipriano Tan, Cipriano Tan Jr., Virgil Arroza, Gen. Tony Wu and Makati Sen. Kalaguian and Robert Barco, Rong Pineda, Francis Ty, Ricky Castillo, Art and Joel Fernandez, Joey Ty, Boy Sta. and Rafael Abad. PBL president Jose "Pepeng" Cojuangco and Louie Cua.

JOHAN FAHN Tiu's Mitsubishi Evo5 (left) joins Blanche Racing's Jose Ly in the first 200 meters of their final faceoff for the Quick-8 crown.

Tiu leads Team Ere to 3 drag racing titles

ROXAS, BIHARAL... TEAM ERE made a big impact on land driver Jonathan Tiu led an impressive haul of three of the four titles at stake in the second leg of the 2006 Red Horse PCSO National Drag Racing Championship at the SBC Drag Strip here recently.

At first count, Team ERE captured the overall team crown over the 16-crowd Blanche Racing Group Road Runners Racing as Joseph Tamaro and Jude Arbor Jeanine Tiu ably backed up Tiu with separate wins.

Nobody thought that the old record of 11.346, owned by Blanche Racing's Dave Jose, could be broken but Tiu's Mitsubishi Evo5 ran current the field when he set a new record time of 11.209 seconds. That was for him the premier Quick-8 class over Blanche Racing's Jose Ly who clocked 11.486.

"The conditions did a good job and were very happy that the race achieved its goals," said Tiu.

Tiamro admitted a time of 11.568 to bag the Pro class crown, defeating Jose who ran 11.586 in the event sponsored by Red Horse Beer, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office and supported by Shipitar, Shell, Denso, Mitsubishi, Cubao Filipino and Sparco.

In contrast, Tiu took rivals to the pretended crown Team Beach's Victor Mallari in the final faceoff to clinch the Unlimited title.

The only other title duo eluded Team Ere were to Marlon Bonilla of Juan Racing, who topped the Sportsman class crown against Japanese Shinichi Suzuki of Downtee Speed.

Eighty drivers showed up in the races sanctioned by the Automobile Association Philippines.

The next leg is set June 17-18 in Iguitan, call the SBC through Rodney Rivera, or Mehan Bayuk at (632) 817-2241, 729-0365.

BY TDP CHOICE

Bonds grabs 2nd over Ruth in MLB homer derby

BONDS: No. 715

SAN FRANCISCO — San Francisco Giants slugger Barry Bonds homered in Tuesday's game against the Colorado Rockies to pass legendary Babe Ruth for second place on Major League Baseball's all-time home run list.

Bonds rewarded his 15,000 career homer, playing into behind only record-holder Hank Aaron, who hit 755.

"It's a great honor. It's a wonderful honor," Bonds said. "I think Aaron is one in the home run king and I won't disrespect that ever."

Babe Ruth has 714 home runs but I think his 755. I have a lot of respect for Babe Ruth and I have a lot of respect for what he's done for the game of baseball, but I have to give the honor up to Hank Aaron because he is the home run king."

Bonds smashed a two-run homer over the right-centerfield wall off a 3-ball, 2-strike pitch from Jeremy Byrnes Kim in the fourth inning. Both the Giants' were on to him, 5-3.

Bonds was pleased the homer came in San Francisco, where fans have continued to back him despite allegations of steroid use that have raised eyebrows over the legitimacy of his feats.

"For me to do it in front of the fans of San Francisco, it can't get any better than this," Bonds said. "I made them wait longer than I've made them wait in the past. But there was no greater place for this to happen other than in San Francisco." AFP

Mavs eclipse Suns for 2-1 series lead

Dallas forces Phoenix meltdown in 2nd half

DALLAS' Jason Kidd drives a driving James Jones of Phoenix. →

PHOENIX, ARIZONA — THE DALLAS MAVERICKS brought the Stoudemire Basketball Association's most feared third-week team to a standstill with a 95-86 semifinal playoff win over Phoenix Suns on Sunday.

Dirk Nowitzki had 28 points and 17 rebounds for the fourth-seeded Mavericks, who registered a remarkable defensive effort to game three of their best-of-seven series.

"We've been great with our transitions defense," Nowitzki said. "Down the stretch we executed at both ends of the floor.

"Against this team on, had a safe income we know they can come back anytime."

Dallas opened the second-seeded Suns in two straight games after giving away the opener at home. Dallas improved to 5-2 on the road.

Mavericks coach Avery Johnson admitted that his team cannot afford to see with the Suns, who are a multi-open offense piloted by Canadian three-Nash to pass the league better than any in the league.

To combat the run-and-gun Suns, Johnson has demanded patience on offense and boards on defense.

"This is a big win for us but we have got to stay focused," Nowitzki said.

Devean George hit four fourth points during the season, Phoenix managed just four last break points Sunday ...and save in the second half.

The offense grinded to a halt, resulting just 36 points after halftime and failing to reach 90 for the first time in the postseason.

Dallas got the offense it needed from Nowitzki, Josh Howard and Jason Terry, who combined for 40 of their 69 points in the second half.

Howard scored 16 of his 22 points and Terry 16 of his 19 after halftime.

The Mavericks also had the upper hand in effort and concentration. They held edges in rebounds (48-42), offensive rebounds (19-12) and steals (10-6) while committing just six turnovers and forcing 13. Steadiness was the more evident that down the stretch.

Trailing by as many as nine points in the fourth quarter, the Suns closed to 88-84 and had the ball when Tim Thomas made a key jump to finish that run under Terry tossed it with a jumper for a 92-88 lead with 33 seconds ago.

Howard pulled down 12 rebounds for Dallas, which never trailed in the fourth quarter and was despite shooting 41 percent (29-69-95).

Nash scored 26 points, Boris Diaw added 20 and Leandro Barbosa 17 for the Suns, who shot 43 percent (28-64-821). AFP

► MAP on P4

DALAS' JOSEPH: It can—Detail on Mavs today at 4 p.m.

Pacquiao-Larios tango

Press page A21

adventure under the manager's contract with the boxer.

Manny has formed his own promotional company right?

Just what role will this company play in the promotion and who are the principals in charge?

Will Finkel and Cohn or Dequiao Promotions as it could no doubt their promotional activities? How will Finkel, Elsass, Pacquiao Promotions and ABS-CBN operate? The roles are blurred—maybe purposely so ... but it would be interesting to know "who's on first"

While we wait for answers, may we suggest the immediate adoption of a strengthened version of the Muhammad Ali Act to help fighters who have been overlooked by unscrupulous promoters and managers.

Our lawmaking officials can ensure now if they so desire assuring they aren't into something matchmakers such as cesspool areas to this close.

French Open: Sharapova eludes axe

PARIS — THE FRENCH OPEN STARTED on a Sunday for the first time and nearly ended quickly for Maria Sharapova.

The former Wimbledon champion overcame a groggy foot, a 5-3 deficit in the third set and three match points to beat Madrassa Washington 6-2, 5-7, 7-5.

The match was the 3rd since April 1 for Sharapova, who withdrew from two events leading up to Roland Garros because of a right ankle injury. Her movement was clearly hampered, even after a contact massaged the ankle following the second set.

But the 20-year-old Washington, who came into the tournament ranked 97th, failed to close out a win that would have been the biggest of her career. Sharapova won the final five games to limp into the second round.

"I was playing with pain, and I blocked it out somehow and started moving better, and she got a little bit tight," Sharapova said. "I knew I wouldn't be playing 100 percent. It's obviously not exciting great."

Roland Garros added a 15th day of play this year to extend into a third weekend, and neither Sharapova nor 2003 seeded Nuge Pichette was thrilled with the early start. Pichette lost his first two service games to fall behind 3-0, then gradually found his form and beat qualifier Olga Blecblad, 7-5, 7-6, 6-2.

Top-seeded Amelie Mauresmo of France played a perfect 20 of her losing Meghann Shaughnessy, 6-4, 6-1. Mauresmo celebrated with a leaping forpump when she broke serve in the next to last game, then finished with her eighth ace.

No. 10 Dinara Safina, No. 22 Ai Sugiyama and No. 23 Marion Bartoli also advanced.

Juan Antonio Marin and Rainer Carlson failed to clasp long losing streaks. Marin fell to 0-17 in Grand Slam events — the worst record in the Open Era — when he lost to Carlos Moya 7-5, 6-2, 6-3. Carlson's skid at Roland Garros reached nine consecutive matches, dating back to 1999, as he lost to Tim Henman, 6-3, 6-4, 4-6, 6-4.

No. 3-seeded David Nalbandian defeated Stanislas Wawrinka 6-2, 7-6 (5), 6-4. No. 7 Tommy Robredo swept Tristan Zilla 6-2, 6-3, 6-2.

Washington kept Sharapova on the run with shots into the corners and pushed her first match point at 5-3. Sharapova calmly erased it with a forehand winner. Washington held two more match points serving at 5-6, but lost the first with a backhand long, then lost her last one when Sharapova whacked another forehand winner.

MARIA Sharapova serves en route against American Madrassa Washington. →

FERNANDO Alonso of Renault celebrates his win after his maiden Monaco win. →

Monaco breakthrough for Alonso

MONTE CARLO — THERE ISN'T MUCH LEFT FOR FERNANDO Alonso to accomplish in Formula One.

He won the world title last season at 24. He won in his native Spain and got to give King Juan Carlos a ride.

And on Sunday he won the Monaco Grand Prix.

"We did it," Alonso said.

The victory in Monte Carlo gave Alonso his second victory in a row, and his fourth this season.

"This is a special place for any driver to win a race, for the history, for what it represents to Formula One and because it is such a big challenge to get through the race with no mistakes," Alonso said.

And with the quick start this season, there is the distinct possibility of another season title. "It seems easy, four wins and three second and a perfect start," he said.

In Sunday's race, Alonso was followed by Juan Pablo Montoya of McLaren-Mercedes and Daniel Coulthard of Red Bull. It was the first podium for Red Bull in an F1 race.

Ironically, it was a future McLaren driver, a current McLaren driver and a past McLaren driver on the podium. Alonso heads to McLaren next year, and Coulthard won the Monaco race for McLaren.

Rubens Barrichello in a Honda was fourth with Michael Schumacher of Ferrari fifth and Giancarlo Fisichella sixth in a Renault.

The victory 12th of Alonso's career 16 last 61 points with Schumacher on 43 going into the June 11 British Grand Prix. Raikkonen and Fisichella are tied for third with 27.

Alonso's task was made easier when Kimi Raikkonen of McLaren, last year's winner, dropped out and five-time Monaco champion Schumacher was penalized before the race began.

Alonso and Raikkonen were separated by less than a second through 58 laps when Raikkonen's engine gave out. AP

Hornish edges rookie Andretti for Indy 500 title

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA — POLESITTER SAM Hornish edged teammate Ryan Andretti by .06 of a second Sunday, entering the fifth Indianapolis 500 for the second closest finish in race history. Hornish, whose last victory in 2006 helped him win the IndyCar title, earned his first career victory at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. Andretti, who led 160 laps, was trying to become the youngest driver to win the race. Hornish passed Andretti on a pit stop with 16 laps remaining after he pulled away from a pit stop before the last time had been determined, leaving the crowd to look at it shook in the side of his car. He was treated back to Wembley and questioned, but called his jubilation a victory over Andretti. AP

Adventure of a lifetime for five MAT bets

CHOSEN FEW: Ballarat Mayoress, Dan Sotiropoulos, Kathleen Cole, Ria Lumagui and Diane Basano (pictured in front from left) wheeze it up with Marlboro brand manager Eric Carmichael (left) and PMTM marketing director Maarten Kik during the recent sendoff party.

ENGINEERING STUDENT KRISTIAN Flynn Cruz was content to be picked as one of the 50 finalists who went through a three-day test of endurance and determination during the Marlboro Adventure Team trials in Tagaytay recently.

All along, he thought his adventure of a lifetime ended there.

But organizers of this year's final test were impressed with the skills the 20-year-old Cruz showed in negotiating rough trails on mountain-top dirt bikes, rappelling, wakeboarding and driving fast jeeps on rough terrain.

Nobody, except Cruz, was surprised when it was announced he had made this year's MAT team that will experience 10 days of fun and adventure on the mushroom domes of Brazil, Utah, later this year.

"I expected them [selectors] to go for older guys, those in the 25-up range," Cruz said. "But I really went my best."

Finalists at Edge have player Bakunti Manatad, dancer Dina Bersamin Soriano, businesswoman Diane Cerochen Basano and call center crack Rodolfo Limagna III to wakeboard in tandem with other contestants after a sendoff party recently at la Pavilion on Roxas Boulevard.

The five emerged as the best from some 555,000 adventure-seekers who answered the call of Philip Morris Philippines Manufacturing Inc. to determine this year's entries to the Marlboro Adventure Team search. Only 50 made it down to 25,000 after the first screening.

After interviews and tests, the list was further winded down to the final 20 aspirants who were given a taste of the adventure they will face in Marlboro through a three-day camp in Tagaytay.

"What we sought are those who have the spirit of adventure, camaraderie, team play, attitude and drive to be," said PMFTRR managing director Chris Sebree. "These are the attributes needed to live through 10 days of adventure in the unforgiving landscape of Moab.

"Again, we have achieved what the MAT has always wanted to achieve, and that is to come up with a team that embodies what adventure is, that one where it's true-to-life action."

Marlboro brand manager Eric Carmichael, in his part, said: "The finalists in Tagaytay are actually already winners by themselves.

"Among many great finalists, one of only a few women among the finalists, we have found [Cruz] to be a leader."

"We were stunned equally [for the finals] next we all enjoyed it," the 23-year-old Bataan said. "It's hard to think that you were in some kind of competition. It really was hard for I think."

Cruz and the 19 other finalists at Edge started to manage to count on the final matic more than a decade ago. This time, Mariner finally gets a chance to [illegible] to share the wonderful adventure in a lifetime.

"The outdoors is my life," the 26-year-old Mariner said. "Most got in the way, it became my passion. It's like a chance for me to get back to the outdoors. I didn't expect to go anywhere like Utah. The Tagaytay camp was already a big thing for me.

"It's a big achievement. I have always wanted to raise the BP flag and I represented the Philippines in any way."

"This is unexplainable, the adrenaline is up my head," said the somatic Lumagui. "We're going to train more. I didn't prepare that well for this, but for the 15 trip, we're going to train harder."

Five time is sure for Soriano but he is already planning to spend more time out of the hospital and do more than just his usual flight attendant and jogging in the morning to get in the best possible shape for finals.

"I'm so happy," Soriano said. "Look at all these people. All were good, all were very competitive, all were adventurous. I gave they one something special to me. Maybe they were my personality and the hard work I did to adjust the challenges."

By these five, Mirah believes

SPORTS

Olympic Festival lures 7,000 athletes

ABOUT 7,000 ATHLETES FROM 27 SPORTS will take part in the 1st Philippine Olympic Festival in venues all over the country from June 19-25.

Nueva Ecija hosts the Mike National Open in athletics, the Mindanao Civic Center in Bukid, Lanao del Norte, will be the venue of boxing; Tagaytay City will hold chess and sepak takraw events, while archery, canoe/kayak and equestrian will be held in Subic.

Several national sports associations (NSAs) will run the event, backed by local governmental units (LGUs), either as qualifying for the coming 15th Asian Games in Doha, Qatar, or to simply discover new talents.

"We are starting to build stronger ties with the LGUs," said POC chair Jose Cojuangco Jr.

Tomas Jones III, the Nueva Ecija governor, welcomed the chance to host athletics in his province's newest pride—the multimillion-peso Nueva Ecija Sports Complex.

"Nueva Ecija has been a consistent source of great Filipino athletes," Jones said. "In fact we want to be among the main sources of athlete potentials."

Tagaytay Mayor Abraham Tolentino said several Tagaytay sites to be the venue are only of those list of other sports.

"Everybody is welcome in Tagaytay City. We are actually inviting everybody here, not only clubs and sepak takraw," Tolentino said.

A part of the country's observance of the founding of the World Olympic Movement and the International Olympic Committee, the inaugural edition of the Philippine Olympic Festival will have 27 sports to be played simultaneously.

Other sports slated aquatics (Jose Rizal), Laguna; arnis (SM Fairview), badminton (Vital Metrodeal), baseball (PBDC), basketball (Laguna Sports), billiards (PAPA), bowling (PBC), dragon boat (Bayanihan), boxing, fencing, football (PFF), football (Mindanao), golf (Manila), gymnastics (Nueva Ecija Sports), judo (Subic), karate (PSI), powerlifting (Mindanao), Pencak Silat, taekwondo (Old Clark), taekwondo (PATC), weightlifting (Philsports), Wushu (PWU).

LOCAL executives and sportsmen join hands in the staging of the first Olympic Festival. From left, Lanao del Norte Gov. Imelda Quibranza-Dimaporo, POC president Jose Cojuangco Jr., POC chair Robert Aventajado, Tagaytay Mayor Bunsoy Tolentino and Nueva Ecija provincial board member Edward Jones.

DOWN AND OUT OF THE RACE

Jockey Jeff Zarate (on the ground) narrowly avoids Special Edition (second from left) after falling off his mount, Mr. Victory, at the start of the Emperador Cojuangco Jr. Cup, the 2006 Triple Crown series' first leg on Sunday at the San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite. Eventual winner Dan Rasquel (fourth from right) saved a great jump out of the gate's center. Nonaldo Baldonado before holding off Special Edition in a furious battle to the wire to win the P1.2-million top prize for owner-trainer Eugenio Lim. Jockey Jeff Zarate (sixth from left) scored for the 1, 1 height stack, while Tigre de Acero was fourth with Rodeny Tayar, a surprise duo Dan Rasquel, starting in fifth. Dan Rasquel's winning time was 1:45 (25', 25', 25', 30) over the mile. Standings, Chin Tho Tiongco, top Emeritus Miller Dollar and Tendresse Stores rounded out the order of finish.

Teener tops Palaui aquathlon; De Leon rules women's race

By Melvin Gascon
PEN Northern Luzon Bureau

SANTA ANA, CAGAYAN—A 14-year-old triathlete from Laguna ruled Saturday's Speedo Palaui Island Aquathlon Challenge here.

Jerome Relaya of the Laguna Multi-Sharks team of Los Baños mashed 40-other triathletes from all over the country to capture overall honors.

Relaya conquered the 6-kilometer course in 47 minutes and 46 seconds.

Bil Reyes, 37, came in second in 48:37 while Brian Cruz was third with a time of 49:43.

The course involved a 2.5-km swimmin run up to the historic Fuga-o lighthouse at 93 meters above sea level, through Palaui's old growth forest, a 1-km swim and another 1.5-km run, again reaching the Fuga-o lighthouse and down to the finish line at the Fuga-o beach.

"It was tough, especially the third," Relaya said. "But it was wonderful and exhilarating once you get to the lighthouse at the top of this hill because of the beautiful view of the sea and the island from up there."

The Relayas made it a family affair as Jerome's twin brother, Joseph, placed seventh, while their father, Jessie, placing third in the 45-50 age group.

Topping the women's category was 28-year-old Ali de Leon, a member of the national triathlon team that participated in the last Southeast Asian Games, who timed 49:02.

Ate on the Cape Engano cave, the event intends to promote Palaui Island as an eco-tourism destination, as officials here said it could easily rival Boracay Island in Aklan as a prime summer destination.

The aquathlon challenge, the second to be held in this town, was organized by the provincial government of Cagayan, the Cagayan Economic Zone Authority, the Triathlon Association of the Philippines and other sponsors.

Other age group champions in the event's divisions of the event also supported by Herbalife, Asian Genetic Information Herbalife, were Joseph Relaya (18 and below), Miguel Robles (20-24), Joseph de Mata (30-34), Ed Timon (35-39), Lot Rabida (40-44), Erasmus Sevilla (Male Over 45 to 49) and Chito Nool (50 and above).

In the women's side, Patricia Stephenson was top in the 35 and below, Jilmel Opalmer in rank the 20 to 29 group, Pinky Pabol emerged champion in the 25 to 29 while Relaine Perdido ruled the 40 to 44 group in the race that projected the annual and suspended Sunny of Palaui Island.

Chan gives RP high mark as b'minton host

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINES PASSED IT'S FIRST LITMUS test as an international badminton host with flying colors.

That was how national head coach Ervin Chan assessed the country's hosting of the recent Bingo Bonanza Philippine Open championships where the Filipino shuttlers performed creditably against the best in the world.

Though the country's best could muster only a measly top-thirty showing at world ranked foes, ace and Bonanza hopeful in the mixed doubles...due 19 others failed to go beyond the second round.—Chan said it was still a commendable finish for all the 89 shuttlers.

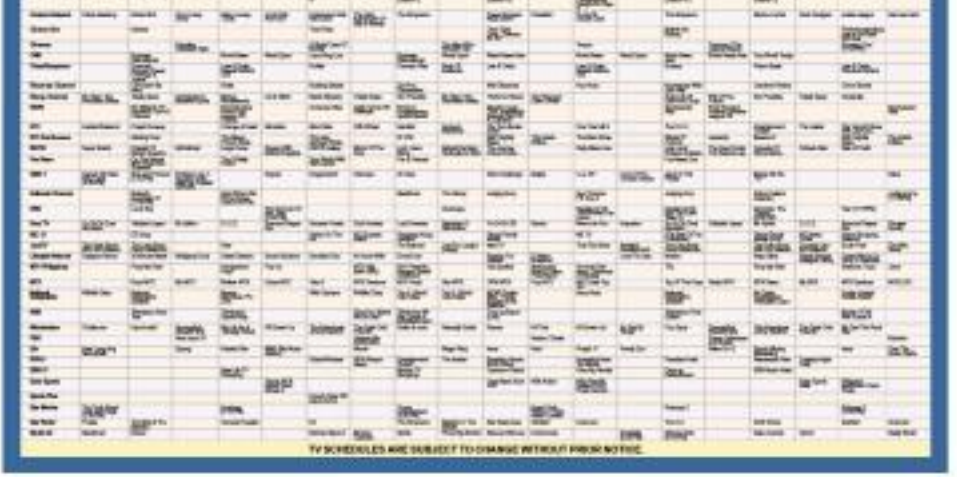
"Three years ago our players won't even be able to score in the field of tournament," said Chan of the four-star championships which marked the first time the Philippines was included in the tough International Badminton Federation circuit.

The Asiatechs rumbled themselves, bagging in other finals after sensational victories against Japanese and Indonesian foes, including 2000 Sydney Olympics silver winner Ye Sonthaviyan and Minami Tkuno.

Their succeeded after the Filipinos, the only BW-ranked players, lost to Thailand's Jindkit Thepparawat and Sarudee Thongthungthong, 15-13, 21-16, in the championship match last Tuesday.

Still, Chan remained optimistic that the country can sustain its badminton program as he lined up a string of international exposures for the talented team.

Chan said he has selected the young players who will soon take part in tournaments in Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Macau, Vietnam and Malaysia.



Alice Evonne G. Velarde

ENTERTAINMENT

KC Montero, John Prats and Diether Ocampo

'Gay na ba kayo?'

Want smooth, white, hair-free underarms like mine?

- Amanda Griffin

LAST 3 DAYS!

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THE DA VINCI CODE

'Gay na ba kayo?'

From page A1-1

BOBBY Tan

Still groping

I HARDLY find Gemmago to let me on the latest homosexual buzz. Milby and Jess (for modal and said, "Hmm, are they whole birth of is an any utilitarian conference when we're both quiet. We're still groping, but they're saying, 'Dang-talking Jess are to go with the flow then the type who won't, now if I don't see Jess, Nakkinanakin ajas. Unlike most donkeys, he's not the aggressive type...which is fine with me."

So what's keeping them from taking their relationship to the next level? Jess said, "I know a lot of gals wanna be Jess's girl, he's definitely boyfriend material (but I wanna take it slow."

Slow slow slow but it's not go go ...

Heart jog

BOBBY Tender and Arnee Dumagulan were spotted twice jogging in Salcedo Park at around 1 a.m. Maybe the lovers were in mood speaking passionately in their speed so jogging made an originally basic Love soul jogging are both good for the heart, anyway.

Rico's bro

DURING late-night bong bong me friend Bobby Yan, I asked about how he was his three days. He said, "I went by my brother Rico's grave three times straight and I'm exhausted." Poor Rico. Hopefully this can help Bobby's heart some to his spirit.

Who's the prize?

YOUR friendly OP Diaries were "Star in a Million" two years ago. But what's that I heard that, to the day she has not received her prize yet (incredible, I know) and a house!? Where she was hosted from 'No-No?' Did she donate and pedestrian people do a "French Avert" on breakfast?

Music maverick

MUSIC Maverick Ricky Lawal is the new gene-

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8 OVER THE HEDGE
9 THE DA VINCI CODE
10 THE DA VINCI CODE

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2 POSEIDON
3 SUTHER
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2 X-MEN 3
3 POSEIDON
X-MEN 3
4 THE DA VINCI CODE
5 OVER THE HEDGE
6 X-MEN 3
7 X-MEN 3
8 THE DA VINCI CODE

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2 X-MEN 3
3 THE DA VINCI CODE
4 X-MEN 3
5 THE DA VINCI CODE
6 OVER THE HEDGE

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4 RESERVE
1 THE DA VINCI CODE
2 X-MEN 3
3 OVER THE HEDGE
4 THE DA VINCI CODE

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2 THE DA VINCI CODE
3 OVER THE HEDGE
4 X-MEN 3
1 THE DA VINCI CODE
2 THE DA VINCI CODE
3 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
4 X-MEN 3
5 X-MEN 3

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1 THE DA VINCI CODE
2 THE DA VINCI CODE
3 X-MEN 3
4 OVER THE HEDGE
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2 THE DA VINCI CODE
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GUARANTEED SEATS

'Gay na ba kayo?'

From page A3-3

Sam Milby

Lips don't lie

Personal

glorietta — GREENBELT — TOWN — Ayala Center Cebu — Ayala Malls

At the Cinemas

G1	1 THE DA VINCI CODE	2 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND	3 THE DA VINCI CODE	4 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND
G4	1 THE DA VINCI CODE	2 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND	3 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND	
	4 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND	5 OVER THE HEDGE	6 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND	7 THE DA VINCI CODE
GB1	1 THE DA VINCI CODE	2 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND		
GB3	1 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND	2 THE DA VINCI CODE		
	3 OVER THE HEDGE	4 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND	5 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND	
ATC	1 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND	2 THE DA VINCI CODE		
	3 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND	4 OVER THE HEDGE	5 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND	
ACC	1 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND	2 THE DA VINCI CODE	3 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND	4 OVER THE HEDGE
M2	1 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND	2 THE DA VINCI CODE		
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BUSINESS
Editor Raul G. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano

Japan lifts freeze on ₱4B in grants, loans

Pledges up to $800M in new yen credits

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT has lifted the freeze on some P4 billion in grants and yen loans after holding their release since 2001 due to a row on the nonpayment of Japanese contractors doing business in the Philippines.

This was reported by House Speaker Jose de Venecia, who flew back to Manila from Tokyo late yesterday, after said Japan has likewise agreed to provide an additional $600-$800 million in fresh loans intended for poverty-alleviation programs and infrastructure projects.

In a telephone call before leaving Japan, De Venecia described as "highly successful" his meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi on Monday, capping his six-day official visit.

De Venecia was accompanied by spouse Gloria, Deputy Speaker for Visayas Raul del Mar and Representatives Jesse Cua, Jack Duavit and Antonio Diaz. Besides Tokyo, they also visited the cities of Kyoto, Kobe and Nagoya.

He said Japanese Finance Minister Sadakazu Tanigaki informed him last Thurs-

(JAPAN 8)

Digitel sees profit in 2007

By Abigail L. Ho

GOVERNMENT-LED DIGITAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS Philippines Inc. (Digitel) expects to post a profit next year after suffering losses these past years due mainly to the rollout of its cellular network.

In an interview on the sidelines of yesterday's stockholders' meeting, Digitel vice chairman Cito Cayetano expressed confidence that "increased subscribers' base because of our good network, good coverage, good service" would bring the company to the black by 2007.

The company had already showed signs of recovery posting a net income of P82.2 million in the first quarter—a reversal of the P451.3-million loss it registered in the same period last year. Since 2002, Digitel had been in the red, with losses reaching about P2.1 billion in 2004.

WB URGES DEV'T COUNTRIES
'Get tough on corruption'

By Doris C. Dumlao

TOKYO—CORRUPTION IS SEEN gnawing on the building blocks of infrastructure especially in poor countries, but it would where public sector intervention is still necessary, top development planners present an urgent case for higher policy accountability and transparency.

At the opening of the two-day Annual Bank Conference on Development Economics (ABCDE) co-hosted by the World Bank and Japan's Ministry of Finance, concerns about corruption, its consequences and possible remedies were discussed forcefully during the session at the Mita Conference Hall here.

In his opening speech, World Bank group president Paul Wolfowitz urged about a thousand ABCDE participants—consisting of policy-makers, economists, academicians as well as representatives from business, inside and civil society—to "get tough and take tough on corruption."

"This requires vigilance not only on bank-financed projects, where our fiduciary responsibility to shareholders demands high accountability, but also in broader country and global environments in which we operate," Wolfowitz said.

"Ordinary people will not fully benefit from new infrastructure projects such as roads if, as in the case of certain projects in Asia, the improved access is accompanied by informal levies or charges that raise transportation costs back to previous levels," he said.

In his own opening address, Japanese Minister Sadakazu Tanigaki reminded that during the 1990s, it was the prevailing thought that private capital should be a main source of infrastructure investments even in developing countries.

"However, the necessity of public sector involvement has been recognized again, and it became necessary to further develop the concept of pub-

(P1A 8)

Foreign investors quit submerging markets

IN CASE YOU WERE WONDERING why there was no article last week, no news-tracking house. It was totally unexpected, our bailiwick being there for eight years but the news hell suddenly decided that our narrow remit needed widening.

We emailed the piece and it was half stayed. Just another three months there would have been two pregnancy and three bicycles passing through our living room every 20 seconds. My wife seemed somewhat disconcerted about this to-ing-and-fro-ing.

In recent months, the jokes had become infinitely more tasteless. The last that it was the end of my daughter's micro-mini-skirt-wearing and the parents, thus there were lots of tips in the kitchen and I was unable to check the spice answer.

Economics 101: I quit thinking my wife loaded the literature on my rebound-powered neighbour's bicycle. I took many journeys to complete the move and my bicycle broke down under the strain. Fortunately, I was able to exchange it for a solar-powered racing glider but it doesn't work at night.

Determined to prevent a recurrence, we plotted our tent in a large field in Camp Crame. It is only used for target practice so we should not be disturbed for too much. The only problem is the midday heat. It is 4 tents.

Congratulations to the three Filipinos who reached the summit of the world's highest mountain, subsequent they had to 'overacross. Do not bring the peak; they found a note in Tagalog saying, "You have now reached level 1. If you can make it up to level 10, you will find the budget deficit."

A broker carrying raising certificates, and a classic rolls of toilet paper, got stuck in a crowding three and got wiped out.

* * *

It has been a bonsai close weeks since I sent out my SELL signal in the bounce and my newsletters. During this period, the market fell 30% points, eventually tests-ing. The main reason was a decision by overseas fund managers to sell massive amounts of stocks in all emerging markets.

The Indian Sensitive index dropped 18 percent in a day before landing. Turkey bolted next in three days, over 6 million pounds of securities were sold. In South Korea, $1.54 billion of securities were sold in a week. There was a one day fall of 6 percent in Russia, 4 percent in Mexico and 2.3 percent falls daily in practically every Asian market.

They decided that it was time to get out of risky investments and back to the safety of US treasury bonds so we had a global meltdown. Starting in Japan, Russia, Mexico and China, the contagion finally reached the Philippines on Wednesday when the PSEI tumbled 94 points. By this time, the risk factor had declined from 100 to only 4. The next day the index fell another 23 points to 2,209 and the risk factor extended to 1.

By that point, I swore that the Jollibee-completely erased the previous rise and that we were back to the support level. I told readers to wait for the market to stabilize and the next morning, it opened strongly for extended upturn. The bottom spiked up, a comparatively-rare occurrence. It is more normal for the market to consolidate after such a loss of confidence but there were special factors at work.

The banks have been offering above 9500 billion of pass-on-nominated unit-rates to investors. They bought the underlying 5- to 10-year bonds, when prices were low and yields were high. So initially as yields declined, prices went up, giving investors a return well into double digits. About a month ago, I wrote in my newsletter that interest rates had hit the bottom of the cycle and that holders of long-dated bonds should sell and take those profits.

The very next day BSP Governor Tetangco made an almost identical observation and since then, bonds have been falling day by day frenetically, investors redeemed valuable amounts and the banks were forced to sell stocks to raise cash. This caused the final dramatic sell off. If the selling has now reached, we should see some recovery but I do not foresee a return to the previous high of 1,292 any time soon.

The domestic fall in commodities was the trigger and gold caused extraordinary volatility in mining shares. Analysts are divided as to what will happen next. Some feel that the commodity "bubble" has been while others, including me, believe that the correction has not been ended, there will still ultimately be a recovery so long as China maintains its frightful growth rate. There is an imbalance of demand and supply a situation that cannot be readily remedied.

While most of the metals are industrial, gold is in a different category. Its use in dentistry and medicine is negligible. It is basically in demand as jewelry by India, China, France and Arabic countries. The latter group seems to mistrust Greenspan's successor's declining dollar. And in times of inflation or uncertainty, gold is the safe haven of choice.

The US is growing at 3.2 percent, an extremely high rate for the world's largest economy. There are some signs of inflation and this might worsen after the passing of a bill to allow illegal immigrants to obtain legal status. Business has welcomed the flood of labor into an already low labor-cost economy. They will not only be low-skilled jobs. Many of the immigrants are highly-educated and they work for sub-minimum wages and have no security or welfare benefits. Once they become legal US citizens, their employers will refuse praise the workforce or pay them the minimum rate plus benefits, which will increase the hourly pay rate.

Japan, the world's second-biggest economy, has been in recession for months. Many of China's consumer spending and has officially declared the seven-year recession over. With India growing at 7.3 percent, and Europe recovering, I do not see a global recession.

In the United States, earnings have grown at double-digit rates for 11 consecutive quarters but are now expected to slow to 8 or 9 percent for the rest of the year. This may not be sufficient to maintain some of the higher Price/Earnings ratios. Coupled with rises of fuel, their cost hikes, Wall Street may have a bitter summer.

Our own economy is disappointing. The SBB, which accounts for 70 percent of the nation's revenue, has billion short of its target for the P7.7 billion to date and the government is willing to subsidize further oil price increases up to P5 billion. In order to keep the deficit on target, the government had no option but to cut spending on infrastructure. There is a bad P7.7 billion story and Fitch Ratings issued the cut of 96 countries, one area of revenue to GDP was one from the bottom. They saw an likelihood of an update in the next future and their lengthy statement published last Wednesday, is critical of the way that tax is collected.

The Treasury will probably report all bills next month as the government has plenty of cash and will not want to pay the high rates that the banks will demand. The experts have been steadily declining over the past six years and now represent less than 1 percent of the items in

Debt default won't affect Steniel plan

STEINEL MANUFACTURING Corp. yesterday said the recent announcement of its creditor banks that the paper previously under was to default of P600 million in debts would not hamper the proposed management buyout of the firm.

Steniel president Dionisio Uriel II (Chairman) said that Steniel is not in cases with banks in proposed a business plan and ways to repair its debts.

In a separate disclosure yesterday, Steniel said that management decided not to extend an offer of its own to its parents firm Steniel (Philippines) Holdings (PI) in order to stave off growing uncertainty on has the company.

Creditor banks led by Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., Chinatrust Commercial Bank and Bank of the Philippine Islands have made declared denial in default of debts worth at least P600 million. Elizabeth L. Sanchez

Traders get 2-month reprieve

LOCAL IMPORTERS ONLY HAVE two months before they get to feel the brunt of the Customs Brokers Law—a measure they claim that is biased to major players.

Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr., president of the Philippine Importers Confederation, said small importers have been processing on their own their import papers at no added cost to government.

He said with the full implementation of the law they may all charges for the importers will be required to use customs brokers.

The owners of mostly small enterprises will continue to press for changes to the law before it takes effect the full implementation of the law.

Ortiz-Luis said that if importers were to have their way, they would waive the BOC to have them share since the processing of import documents may consume several and did not entail the services of licensed brokers.

"The requirement creates a new layer of cost, says because of the need to get the signatures of customs brokers for every import shipment," he said. Bernard M. Bautista

Mr. Bearbull

Rose Nakhoo

sell and some share profits.

The very next day BSP Governor Tetangco made an almost identical observation and since then, bonds have been falling day by day frenetically, investors redeemed valuable amounts and the banks were forced to sell stocks to raise cash. This caused the final dramatic sell off. If the selling has now reached, we should see some recovery but I do not foresee a return to the previous high of 1,292 any time soon.

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The US is growing at 3.2 percent, an extremely high rate for the world's largest economy. There are some signs of inflation and this might worsen after the passing of a bill to allow illegal immigrants to obtain legal status. Business has welcomed the flood of labor into an

Mark my world

SAY WHAT YOU WILL ABOUT the movie, but that most famous holddown of them all—the man who reinvented himself as Mark Antonio—did not have to do it.

He had an obligation: arbaran vote to the victims of the education plan companies in trouble. He has reportedly given P500,000 to the families of PH pyramid-holdees.

Precisely, the obligation should go to the stockholders of companies such as Pacific Plans Inc. (PPI).

And PPI, mind you, is part of the multibillion-peso conglomerate of tuipan alfonso Yao Sengan, the founder of the bank NEBC.

At least, Antonio can pay for the school expenses of the poorest of the 34,000 kids of the PPI plan holders for this school year.

But how the same Antonio can take the money now was is still anybody's guess at this point. Hopefully, other Antonios will come out. I hopefully!

* * *

Reports sources said that Antonio even shouldered the P345,000 in bail bonds for the officials of the so-called Farmers Building Service (FSD) Coalition.

That's the entire group of PPI plan holders, demanding that the Arroyo government pay for all the school expenses of the PPI plan holders, no matter how high the tuition may get now and in the future.

They argue, perhaps correctly than the Yaohongpo group has a moral, if not legal, obligation to the public.

Recently, however, the Yaohongpo group used officials of the PEP Coalition for libel. That they would sue the pair half-brain amounting to P300,000 for all of them.

And in the same gaps, instead of getting the money from the Yaohongpo conglomerate for school expenses this year, had to raise money to stay out of jail.

What do we have here? A thief, the plan holders gave their money to PPI in return for a promise the

Conrado P. Bautista III

know—PPI would cost their kids excellent education?

That promise has never been fulfilled. What's more, as recent as the plan holders who dared to speak up, they were now face court cases. Sic!

How about working in a conference for or both sides please?

* * *

There are those in business who may worry at the gateway of Antonio. After all, the unmanaged P345,000 he fled for prospective bondees during the time of the man named Patel . Were fined.

The latter congressman was said to have been a control Lyn. Sings even the TOP, died under of White Band during his short time in the House. But it was not to have made a pile at that time.

And as this time what in the world did Allan F. Antonio expect to gain, financially or what not, from helping those poor plan holders?

Alright—it would be politically correct for the congressman to ready made waves in media about his contribution cuts in the United States, sponsored by no less than this one administration of Glorietta.

Supposedly, as this cuts administration argued then, Antonio had to strive the prizes seen for his virtue of donating no much money to Unpublicans.

And so if he really loses getting away money maybe he thought that he was in order to give it to those desperate owners of useless education plans. And that's bad!

* * *

If, based on the Palace media bills, 30B Commissioner Jose Mario Buting is on the way out, allegedly for the BIR's failure to hit its collection target for months—for a freaking ONE SINGLE month—then who will take his place?

Lately, the boys of Glorietta are beside themselves trying to name Buting.

The stars, after all, only happened to be the only BIR chief who being a tax expert in his private law practice, is a member of the prestigious Tax Management Association of the Philippines.

All the other commissioners were just cabinet cadres, period.

Now, word goes around that this cute administration plans to use the BIR position as payment for some political debts.

One of the "candidates," apparently, is former Bureau of Customs chief Jose Pardo Lacson, the husband of Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, the aunt of one of the Palace boys of shortarms, some other class Secretary Michael Defensor, who has been steering home-one promises to another in the post-Ople years.

Jose Santiago, among other things, is famous for a game called "tabong."

His knowledge about said expression in taxation may nevertheless be comparable to his fighting cocks.

* * *

All right, with its finances in disarray, this new administration wants to raise more revenues. Please don't look at us down here in the provinces.

For one, during the time of Victor Batol, the BIR filed charges of tax evasion against an insurance tycoon.

Supposedly the company of the tycoon did not remit to the BIR withholding taxes on net worth at least P600 million.

Again, that's P600 million. In another place and time, that's enough to send the tycoon to jail for a mighty long time.

So what happened to the court case...fizzled and forgotten?

Stocks down . . .

They said rising oil prices and a weaker peso may prod the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to lift rates, ahead of another potential rise in US interest rates next month.

The composite index shed 17.50 points to 2,201.39 after moving between 2,276.81 and 2,130.19. Volume reached 723.17 million shares worth P1.81 billion. Losers outnumbered gainers 79 to 34, with 43 stocks closing flat.

The broader all-shares index fell 7.54 points to 1,628.87.

"Last Friday's recovery was just a technical bounce, which cannot be sustained in a recession now rising interest rates remain," said Steven Agellon of DA Market Securities.

AB Capital Securities said, in a note to clients, the BSP may increase its benchmark overnight rates at its policy meeting on Thursday, after keeping them steady for seven straight months.

Property firms fell on worries that higher interest rates would dampen real estate sales.

Backing the downtrend, mixing economic sentiment to dim. Uncertainty, prices rose in US trading Friday following sharp losses earlier in the week.

"There is a school of thought that metals will continue to be a good hedge against inflation and many investors believe that," said Agulla. AFP

Japan lifts freeze on P4B in grants, loans

From page B-1

day in a brief meeting that "the way is now open for the resumption" of the grants and the concessional yen loans packages totaling the Philippine government's settlement of some P78 million due to Japanese companies.

The delegations also had a 30-minute meeting last Friday with Kyosuke Shinozawa, governor of the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, source of the yen packages that had been suspended since 2001.

De Venecia said the restoration of the annual packages would be major sources of capital funds for the Philippines at these had 30.60 years repayment at less than 1 percent interest a year.

The yen loans could fund "massive infrastructure building and development and various Philippine anti-poverty programs leading to the creation of close to 1 million jobs," he said.

The delegation has had a full schedule, including bilateral meetings with Speaker Nobo Kono of the Japanese Diet (Parliament) and the Japan-Philippines Parliamentarians Friendship League.

Oil producers urged to invest in education, bonds

To avoid 70s woe where excess money lent to developing countries led to debt crises

By Abigail L. Ho

INSTEAD OF JUST KEEPING THEIR PETRO-dollars in banks, Asian economies are encouraging oil-producing countries to channel those into education-related initiatives that will have a lasting effect on the oil industry, as well as on Asian bonds that can be used to fund oil development projects in the region.

Coming off a recent meeting with various foreign ministers in Qatar, Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla related that the reinvestment of petrodollars in Asian economies was one of the issues they discussed, in light of the rising prices of oil in the world market these past two years.

"I think that's a very important point because right now, due to the higher prices of oil, we are experiencing the same phenomenon that occurred in the 70s, where you have petrodollars floating out there and, of course, they would have to find some place to be invested in," he told reporters.

Petrodollars refer to the money that oil exporters get from their selling crude oil, which are deposited in foreign banks.

In the 70s and 80s, bulk of the surplus petrodollars were deposited in American and European banks, and subsequently lent to oil-importing developing countries. This contributed to Latin America's debt crisis.

"We need to learn our lessons from the past. The oil-producing countries have actually the greatest advantage on how to invest their money now than in the 70s, because there are things they can actually invest in," Lotilla said.

Lotilla said that as some of the biggest oil consumers in the world—China and India—are here in Asia, it would make sense for oil-producing countries to reinvest their petrodollars in the region.

Those investments would come in the form of education-related initiatives that would help oil-consuming countries produce skilled workers who could eventually contribute to the oil sector, he said.

He said Saudi Arabia specifically, for example, could invest its petrodollars in education in the country, as the Philippines supplied a large number of skilled workers to the world's oil giant.

"That way we are not value-fit the kind of people that we produce for the particular needs of the oil-producing economies that need them. For instance, if basic nuclear language skills are necessary, then they can be incorporated into the curricula," he explained.

If not in education-related initiatives, he said Asian bonds would be floated to "absorb some of the excess petrodollars."

The proceeds of the bond flotation could then be used by these economies to bankroll various development projects in the region, he said.

He declined to give further details on the Asian bonds, however, noting the Department of Finance would have its hit-the-ons in finalizing the proposal.

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Wheels: Polyurethane
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NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING
1. Certification of Mailing of Notices and Quorum
2. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Stockholders' Meeting held on June 17, 2005
3. Chairman and CEO's Report/Panorama of Operations
a. 2005 Highlights
b. Outlook for 2006
4. Approval of the Annual Report and Ratification of the Actions of the Board of Directors/Officers
5. Election of Directors
6. Appointment of External Auditors
7. Transaction of other business which may come before the meeting
8. Adjournment
By Order of the Board
(Sgd.) FERNANDO O. VILLAFUERTE
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BUSINESS

Gov't to raise tax collection goal

Customs tasked to raise bulk of increase in revenues

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE IS PRIMED TO RAISE the government's revenue-collection target next year to bring back its tax effort to levels prior to the Asian financial crisis.

A government official said close renewal of the originally programmed revenue collection of P1.113 trillion for 2007, a higher target of P1.124 trillion is being considered by the DOF.

The P11-billion increase in the target would be shouldered by the Bureau of Customs (BOC), which will be tasked with collecting P228.3 billion in duties and value-added taxes (VAT).

The BOC's revenue target for 2007 will also be 17 percent higher than the P221.1 billion that the agency should collect this year. The BOC is the second biggest revenue source for the government among line agencies.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), the biggest revenue contributor for the government, will be assigned to generate P793.3 billion next year. This is 17 percent higher than the P675.9 billion in per this year.

The DOF official said that with the increase in the revenue target, the government could attain the desired tax-effort level more quickly.

The government has set a goal of attaining a tax effort of at least 27 percent, which was last achieved in 1997. Starting 1998, following the Asian financial crisis, the tax effort fell every year, reaching 12.9 percent in 2004.

Although the Philippines was considered the least affected by the crisis, the resulting decline in economic output resulted in a decline in tax collection.

The tax effort slightly increased to 12.7 percent last year and is expected to rise to 13.6 percent this year, to 15.7 percent next year, and to 16.1 percent in 2008.

The tax effort is the ratio between taxes and duties collected by the government to the country's gross domestic product (GDP). It determines whether the government is able to generate the supposed additional taxes and duties amid higher economic growth.

The official said that while the original revenue-collection programs for the medium term reflected annual increases, the growth target should be higher to achieve the 17-percent tax-effort target earlier than expected.

The government has been reminded time and again by foreign creditors and credit-rating agencies on the need to become more aggressive in shoring up revenue collection to quickly fix its fiscal problem and eventually boost economic growth.

Credit-rating firm Fitch Ratings earlier noted that the government's revenue collection was one of the lowest in Asia. The credit-rating firm said this is worsening revenue collection was the more prudent way of reducing the government's budget deficit than cutting expenditures.

Monitor tax perks, BIR urged

THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE should forge a deal with concerned agencies to get a periodic report of the status of tax- and duty-free privileges given to businesses.

This was suggested by the National Tax Research Center (NTRC), which said the government could better address huge leakages arising from the abuse of fiscal incentives if the BIR would be furnished with a regular report on the incentive status of companies.

The NTRC, tasked with coordinating studies and providing recommendations on tax reform issues, said in a paper that the BIR should advise government agencies that grant fiscal incentives to provide a regular report on which companies were still entitled to fiscal incentives or those with expired incentives.

Estimates showed that the government was losing close to P300 billion a year due to the granting of incentives. The amount included legislated incentives and those fraudulently claimed by businesses whose incentives have already expired.

The NTRC said there should be a communication line between the BIR and concerned agencies to ensure that the government only granted incentives to those who were legitimately covered by tax-and-duty perks.

Major government agencies granting fiscal incentives include the Board of Investments (BOI) and the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza).

BOI grants income tax holidays, among other incentives, to firms included in the Investment Priorities Plan (IPP), a list of industries considered priority by the government.

Peza grants incentives to registered locators in economic zones. These companies are only required to pay a 5-percent tax on gross income in lieu of all other taxes.

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LIFESTYLE
Editor Chole Bansil Formoso

MONDAY ARTS & BOOKS • TUESDAY FITNESS • WEDNESDAY ZEST • THURSDAY FOOD • FRIDAY FASHION & BEAUTY

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Standing one-arm row

STRENGTHENS THE BACK OF the shoulders, sides of the back, and the biceps

Equipment:
Dumbbells

Exercise technique:

1. Stand with your left leg in front and the right leg behind.
2. Hold the dumbbell in your right hand. Lean forward from the hip and support your upper body with your left hand on your left thigh.
3. Lift dumbbell by drawing shoulder blade toward spine and bending elbow.
4. Keep elbow close to torso.
5. Slowly lower weight by straightening arm back toward floor.
6. Do all repetitions on one side, then the other.

Performance tips:

1. Keep your shoulders facing the ward, avoid rotating at the waist.
2. Pull in the abdominal muscles to prevent the lower back from arching or sagging as you lift the weight.
3. Don't let your head drop toward the floor. Good look up to avoid pitching your neck.
4. Lift the weight by squeezing the muscles at the side of your back and shoulders rather than pulling with your hand.
5. You will also feel a stretch in the calf of the leg behind.

Repetitions:
Do 12-15 repetitions per side.

Making exercise safe for you

WELL AND GOOD
Tina Juan

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO, FITNESS PROFESsionals threw up a list of "contraindicated" exercises. The list was an overreaction to an alarmist injection vomiting from the fitness craze in the '70s and '80s.

Today, the fitness industry is more mature. It knows reality is more complicated than just having a list of "good" and "bad" exercises. What is contraindicated for one person may be perfectly fine for another.

In other words, there are no contraindicated exercises, just contraindicated people. An exercise can be safe or unsafe depending on who is doing it.

The politically correct word these days is "risky" indicating that an exercise not only may require a higher level of fitness and skill, but also carries a higher degree of risk.

An example of a risky exercise is the well-hyped deadlift. The exercise should be done only by someone with a strong back, flexible hamstrings, and almost perfect execution. It is definitely not for a novice exercisee. It is not even appropriate for an advanced exercisee with a weak back or tight hamstrings.

Risk-benefit ratio

The trick in enjoying the benefits of exercise while minimizing the risk is to assess the risk-benefit ratio of all exercises. The benefit should always outweigh the risk.

Athletes take great risks for a gold medal or a juicy endorsement contract. For them, the "benefit" outweighs the risk. The average person who simply wants to be fit and healthy should not take the same risks.

The more advanced the exercise, the more risky it usually is as it requires more strength, flexibility and skill. With the many kinds of exercises, choose those that match your own fitness level so the risk-benefit ratio will always be in your favor.

Too might think pain is the best way to judge whether an exercise is unsafe or not. Unfortunately, pain does not always show up right away. Luckily, you don't have to wait until you are in agony to distinguish between a safe and unsafe exercise.

You can learn from the knowledge and ex-

PAGE/NEXT

POSTNOT — BY BILL AMEND

A LITPA — BY JESS ABRERA

MARVIN — BY TOM ARMSTRONG

PUGAD BABOY — BY PAT. JUNIOR

BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT

HUTTS — BY PATRICK MCDONNELL

ATOMO AND PEBOY — BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY — BY STEVEN PANILAYAN

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCES DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY Like many other carnivals, you have a strong drive for freedom and independence. You don't like routine. You don't like schedules. You set your own schedules. And when you are overscheduled, you don't like that, either. You're an undisciplined soul. You're an undisciplined artist. You're an undisciplined lover. You need solitude. But you will help one to form something valuable. Keep an open mind.

Birthdays of: Rhiannon Giddens, singer; Mel Blanc, cartoon voice; Meredith Machen, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You have a tendency to be impulsive. There's nothing wrong with that. It does set up with your sales ideas. This creative energy brings success and applause. (Best in cool colors.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You have an eagle eye today. You're very opinionated today with others. You want to make a point. Don't let your ego run away with you! (Be lucky in love by remaining quiet and modest.)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You might be a bit overwhelmed by the shopping today. Energy, feelings, emotions, you, and your might collectively buy more things than you have a credit way. Be aware of the impulse.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): The Moon is in your sign today, and it's lined up with lofty ideas. You make one of the most significant decisions of your life. (Best in shades of blue.)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You find resistance in others. It's as if everything is on the back burner, and it's starting to simmer. Be patient. Be understanding. Be tolerant. These feelings of self-control are going to overcome.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is a good day to get your opinions across to others. However, you might be so excited about your own way. (Blues is on the table.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Your emotions is difficult to express today, so don't try. Instead, keep your feelings to yourself. But you're willing to go after what you want, so be, look or listen.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Your ambition is in charge today. Nothing is really negative now. Your mind is on the phone. You're very mentally aware of something.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You'll encounter some opposition today. You might as well as seem to fight for the underdog. Watching out for your rights, please listen. Energy should be shared.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Be patient with others and yourself. Disappointment could arise very easily. (Relationships are important today. Be sure to make vocations unnecessary.)

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You have lots of energy to get things done today. But be sure to discuss your progress with others as work and at home. You want a sense of order.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Decisions must be pushed with. Financial skills. Relationships are a bit of a bear today. Don't rush the business. Energy gets more down on travel.

BEN — BY DANIEL SHELTON

KIKO MACHINE — BY HANS ABRERA

LOVEHOOTS — BY ELIZABETH CHONGLO

DAILY CROSSWORD

TULDOK — BY RAFLAND "BEHUM HILARIBILENG"

SQUARE duo, Tessa (T.Y. and me), in front of the place to be of the Royal Promenade, about to drive away in a vintage Morgan.

ABOVE: Our group got the impressive service of the Filipino crew during our meals on our first evening onboard the Freedom of the Seas.

EVENINGS on a cruise ship can also be fun costume parties.

HOTSHOTS of boys Caribbean: Rama Seidaropoulo and Mario Bravo

THE FOUR AMIGOS ON Presidential Family Suite has a dining area, jacuzzi and private deck

Enjoying my Freedom to cruise the seas

CHILD-friendly fantasy swimming pool

BROADWAY musical productions are presented every night at the 1,350-seat Arcadia Theatre.

ABOVE: Photo finish: Israeli manager Lea Ang, Paolo Gonzales, and entertainers Kelly Miss, Tim Yap and Cristina Garcia

THE multipurpose ice-skating rink

BEFORE I LEFT MANILA I MADE A promise to myself, "I will not gain weight on this cruise." I tried my best to be disciplined, but with all the excellent food served in all the main outlets, especially at the elegant dining room, where one had a choice of the excellently prepared seven-course menu, from appetizer to the main course and desserts, I decided, what the heck, forget about calorie counting... for a couple of days, at least. I wanted my taste buds to feed, glorious food, on board the Freedom of the Seas. It was really Freedom then.

After watching the Circus of the Seas, a traditional parade paying tribute to the glorious circus parades of the past, we moved for the 10 o'clock show. Jennifer-focused entertainment, including the Presidential Family Suites. The suiters are perfect if you're traveling with your family or gang. Whether you're a party of six, eight or even 14, there's something for you.

And believe me, they didn't look like suiters at all—they were more like condominium! They even had huge balconies with jacuzzis. Wow!

On our last night, we had a great dinner. Afterward, we rushed to our staterooms, which had all the amenities one could find: a flat-screen TV, spacious showers and toilets (HO are—you name it, they have it. Plus the to-die-for bed, with its luxurious bed sheets and pillows cases that make you want to stay in bed all day...holidays.

Our stateroom had to be one of our safest by design for ladies since for one thing, it's only at 8:30 in the morning, so it was an early night for us, but not for adorable Tessa, who still took a look-see at the Casino Royal and watched the fantastic ice-skate show that night.

Beautiful memories

When we left Southampton, we watched the ship vanish from the horizon as we made our way back to London for an overnight stay and a day of last-minute shopping. (We went to go back in Manila on ECAL!

I recalled what the dashing Richard Fain, Royal Caribbean chair and chief executive officer, said: "We share the same freedom of the seas because it is all about freedom of choice. Freedom to explore. Freedom to relax. Freedom to make one's own holiday plans to Barbra—of one's own tastes and interests."

Without a doubt, dahlings, Freedom of the Seas is truly a distinguished masterpiece of maritime architecture, an incredible visual sensation, decorated to true, understated opulent elegance.

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen using Kodak Pro Image print

One personality who is definitely smiling from ear to ear is the young woman of substance, fashion plate Marilou Rasquinhas Reyes, hotelier president and CEO of Aqua Air Inc. of the ever-reliable Baron Travel.

Freedom of the Seas will have its regular run of seven-nights around the Caribbean route starting June 3, sailing from Miami to Cozumel, Ocho Rios, Georgetown, Grand Cayman, Montego Bay, Jamaica, and Royal Caribbean's exclusive private destination, Labadee, Hispaniola.

Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. is a global cruise company that operates Royal Caribbean International and Celebrity Cruises. It is represented in the Philippines by Aqua Air Inc., the sister company of Baron Travel Corp.

For more info on the Freedom of the Seas, consult your travel agent, or Aqua Air Inc. at 8521700 and 8943097, or e-mail rafael@aquaairpassage.com.ph.

Who wants to disembark unless one's traveling on the best destination on earth?

Ta, dahlings, with Royal Caribbean, you will definitely have the freedom to explore while discovering the world. It's your opportunity to do something new and different, things you have yet to experience aboard a ship. It's freedom at its best!

'In heat' in Bora

The gorgeous island of Boracay was like Grand Central Station with boundings, souvenirs and other activities taking place one after another.

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REFRESHING beauty Anne Curtis

THEA Tremblant, JM Rodrigues and top DJ Mandel Ocris

MICHELLE Pantoja and Georgina Wilson

JUAN Eliazin and Bianca Aranda

CHEESE Ledesma and Joel Ong

JACQUES Dupasquier and eye-catching model Jackie Rocha

HOT couple Tisha Silang and Geoff Rodriguez

Healthy inside and out

HEALTH EXPERTS AGREE that to build a strong foundation for well-being you have to get healthy.

The prescription is the same: balanced diet, exercise, relaxation, sleep and supplementation. But how and why should you start?

Caring for the inside

Every day, your body's 60 trillion cells are bombarded by the enemy...free radicals. These are poisonous, energy-seeking molecules from the air you breathe, the food you eat and the water/liquids you drink.

Free radical damage, if left unchecked, will damage/destroy your cells and weaken your immune system, hastening aging and causing disease.

So, the more protection you have through the intake of antioxidants that fight free radicals, the better you are able to stay healthy.

And because beauty also depends on the state of health, you have to adopt a healthy lifestyle if you want to be anti-aging.

Nutritional plus

In 1998, the Journal of Medicinal Foods studied and evaluated liquid vitamins and minerals and found them effective in health management. In 2002, the Journal of the American Medical Association published the results of almost 40 years of research on the relationship between vitamins and diseases. They indicated that vitamin deficiencies were associated with chronic illnesses like cancer, coronary heart disease and osteoporosis (go to www.drsoldhidden.com/Access).

The big reason behind many diseases included vitamin C, folic acid, B6, B12.

At the Gifu Pharmaceutical University in Japan, a study showed that extracts from mangosteen (fruit and shell), which has xanthones, had strong antibacterial effect and medicinal and antioxidant properties.

Several mangosteen-based supplements are now available. One of them is Noxzine (but has formulated separately liquid extracts of mangosteen plus fruit extracts and full-spectrum vitamins, the first of its kind.

The Noxzine Nutrition Program is in the prestigious Physicians Desk Reference, a listing of nonprescription drugs and dietary supplements used by healthcare professionals. Call MOL at 687-3000 ex 6870 to 6878.

The power of juicing cannot be underestimated. You can make it a daily habit to take at least one fruit or vegetable juice a day for a healthy start.

Pamper the outside

Gone are the days when adding color to your face means pinching your cheeks until they blush and hiding your lips till they are red. Beauty enthusiasts know there are easier and safer ways to enhance color. And the search is on for the best, most effective products.

Saving us time and effort, Marie Claire Philo joined the search for the best cosmetic products. The Prix d'Excellence de la Beauté 2006 is a 20-year-old international research by an international panel of beauty experts. A book search, where several magazines were represented, announced nine product winners.

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

Anti-aging

- Elange Créme and Gel by Sonne uses hyaluronic acid to enhance the production of the same substance in skin to improve its elasticity.
- Phytoserum by Lancôme was designed for women in their 50s. Rich in calcium to combat "dermoporosis" (reduction of solidity).
- Sensitive Gloss Visage, a calming day créme for sensitive skin that is fragrance-, color and alcohol-free.

Cosmetics

- Vibrato Shocking by Elizeal Paris is the new generation mascara with 16 patents. Its two-step process guarantees lashes that are double in volume. Available in July.
- Dream Matte Mousse by Maybelline, designed for the modern age, it is for the woman on the run, a foundation that doesn't run.
- Liquid Bronze by Clarins...achieve that natural look even if you step out of the sun, a self-tanning lotion.
- Rouge Pure Shine by Yves St. Laurent—the classic red lipstick that promises more color than edge gloss.
- Kiss Kiss by Guerlain—stylish lipstick perfumed with violet and red fruits.

Home treatments

Your bathroom is a virtual beauty counter, and your kitchen your source of natural health remedies. Open your refrigerator and find something good for you. Let's try the cucumber. Enjoy the fare. Cucumber toner does an amazing job on the eyes. Relax. Put your feet up. Listen to music. Think happy thoughts. Rise after five to seven minutes.

Affirm your "Happiness is a state of mind. And I claim happiness now."

Love and Light!

Revelations on the Gospel of Judas

Jerel

IN CODEX PAGE 49, "THE CONFLICT between the Gnostics and the orthodox church is reflected in how Jesus sees the church and its questionable doctrine. The disciples have a vision of the temple, which Jesus explains is allegorical terms. He compares what they see in the temple to the wrong message coming from the emerging mainstream church. The disciples, he explains, see elder-run temple priests as "shepherds of error," one who expounds erroneous teachings."

The big mistake the emerging Christian church made then was in its not only the same as esoteric aspects of Christ's words and teachings, completely ignoring the hidden or esoteric meaning.

That's why the accepted reading lacks substance, leading to erroneous knowledge. Although the church insists it is the only correct interpretation.

By crushing any form of dissent or opposition, the mainstream church succeeded in consolidating its power within the hierarchy of the priesthood. Only they can interpret the teachings. All others are barred.

But the people who wrote down the Gospel of Judas and the other Gnostic writers did not think they were being heretical. In fact, it was the other way around.

Deviation

Followers of Christ called Gnostics considered the teachings of the mainstream church heretical. In their belief, it was the Orthodox Church that deviated from the true teachings of Christ.

Codex page 36 says, "... Say will exceed all of them. For you will sacrifice the man that clothes me."

In this passage, Christ described how Judas would rank among the ordinary disciples after Jesus' death.

"According to the Gospel of Judas, the savior is the spiritual being inside Jesus who lives in a spiritual dimension. The physical being of Jesus is a simple covering, much like a clothing that the (spiritual) savior wears in the world. Jesus is essentially telling Judas that, by betraying him—knowingly and at his request—he is being a true friend and allowing the man Jesus to die, so that the Savior can be free to return to his home in heaven. In Gnostic tradition, Jesus' mother was his church as a tragedy, not as a necessary act to save the world from its sins."

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licanco

No wonder the Catholic Church in the Philippines is denouncing the Gospel of Judas as heretical and is downplaying its significance.

But the church, by doing this, only arouses the curiosity of the faithful who have been conditioned merely to obey the dictates of the church and not to question its pronouncements. The church indeed has a lot of explaining to do.

Shocking

As if those new data about Judas Iscariot were not enough, the article Gabbey brought out more shocking revelations that, although they could not be independently verified, were at least consistent with Gnostic and New Age beliefs.

The reality Gabbey revealed to Jan Aquinas the following pieces of secret information about Judas Iscariot that were completely unknown before:

Brothers

Gabbey said the initial agreement was reached by Judas and Jesus in one of their past lives when they were brothers.

"Jesus, as your man, had a human soul that kept reincarnating. When this human soul had already perfected itself after several reincarnations, it was used as a human vehicle for the Divine to manifest in this world. That Divine Being was called Christ. Remember that God is a spirit. He has no material body. The Divine spirit, who was Christ, used Jesus as human vehicle to be in this world.

"Jesus and Judas... were (in a previous life) the only children of a couple who lived in Egypt. They were separated at an early age and survived through farming...thus to their classmates, they never (they would help each other) and, if you should be in need, the other would help even at the expense of his own life.

"Now, when they met again during the time of Christ, that agreement was renewed. But it wasn't really Judas who betrayed Jesus, it was the power to lead you. Jesus asked Judas' help to fulfill his mission."

(To be concluded)

Next week: Secrets revealed by Jesus to Judas

Making exercise safe for you

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Raffles Education Network

Paragraph 01

petence of fitness professionals who, through the years, have identified certain observable factors that make an exercise unsafe.

Too fast

This doesn't mean you should never do a fast exercise. The rule is to be always in full control of your movements. Compare a skilled boxer with a person just learning to box. The boxer's hands are either at his guard or is a flurry of punches. The beginner is awkward and uncoordinated.

If the beginner tries to move as fast as the expert, his punch will take a looping horizon he does not have the coordination to stop. His entire momentum created by his flailing arms.

Even simple weightlifting exercises can be unsafe when excessive momentum is applied. As always, remember to move at a speed that you can properly control. With relatively heavy weights, that is usually as slow to moderate speed.

Too soon

If you give your body just the right amount of challenge, it will adapt by getting stronger and fitter. But if you challenge it before it is ready, even a basic exercise will cause an injury.

Many beginners get hurt because they try to do advanced exercises. Experienced exercisers can also get injured if they attempt advanced exercises too suited to their fitness skill. For example, the risk of injury is high for a cyclist trying to do an advanced yoga class, no matter how fit she is.

Too much

Majority of exercise injuries are due to overuse, primarily because of too much exercise. You can read up with three surgery because of doing two hours of cycling or running. The second reason is doing only one kind of exercise, instead of spreading out the stress of exercise, it is continuously concentrated in one or two joints.

Too heavy

Heavy tools are a simple and safe exercise. But when done with weights that are too heavy, it becomes an unsafe exercise, exerting stress on the joints' bones and the elbows. You can have the safest exercise program in the world designed for you, but if you lift weights that are too heavy, every single exercise in your program will become dangerous.

Not appropriate

If you have a structural abnormality or past history of joint injury, some exercises will never be appropriate for you. A shoulder wound is too risky for a person with neck issues because it flattens the normal curvature of the neck and places too much weight and stress on the delicate neck bones.

Wrong execution

Abdominal curls are a prime example forward exercise but many people do it wrong and end up hurting their necks, instead of working their abdominal muscles. Wrong execution is the reason for many exercise injuries. That's why it is so important to get professional instruction—ideally in person but, if the very least, through books or videos.

Unnatural movement

Behind the neck pull-downs and behind the neck military presses are examples of unnatural joint movements. These types of exercises go against the structural design of the shoulder joint. If you have to lift a heavy bar overhead, you would need to do it behind your neck because it is unnatural.

The body has its own wisdom. If we just listen, we won't get hurt.

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